

Election retreat ruled out

Thatcher will defy critics in manifesto

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is ready to fight her third-term election on a radical Conservative manifesto which will defy the growing Cabinet and party demands for a retreat on vintage Thatcherism.

Conservative ranks. However, those ranks tend to close in elections. Downing Street sources have confirmed that the Prime Minister wants to attack the problems of education with a credit system which would enable parents to choose between the state and private systems.

that there is no written procedure for making a manifesto. The reins of power are held by the party leader and close political colleagues. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was put in charge of the last manifesto and preliminary work on the next phase of Mrs Thatcher's programme will be under the control of Mr Norman Tebbit.



Mrs Thatcher: no watering down of her plan.



A woman dodges the arm of M Jacques Chirac, mayor of Paris, as he tries to shake hands with a member of the crowd while campaigning in Montreuil. Campaign reports, page 4.

Tough security as Anglo-Irish talks resume

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Tough security is expected in Northern Ireland tomorrow as both governments signal their determination to back the Anglo-Irish agreement by holding the fourth meeting of the joint ministerial conference in the province.

not in suspension, is progressing at a very slow pace. Mr King and Mr Barry put on a public display of friendship, but it is understood their relationship is not particularly harmonious.

Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, is likely to fly to Stormont for discussions with Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in which cross-border security, justice and the position of the Irish language will be high on the agenda.

A further indication of the Government's hardline position towards the Unionists is expected after Easter when ministers meet to decide on the future of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Fans give police clue to rapists

By Michael Horsnell

Detectives hunting the gang who raped a vicar's daughter were last night sifting through the names of 3,000 members of the pop group Marillion's fan club after contacting the band in Canada.

A spider's web tattoo and the initials MAR on the hands of two of the three rapists who struck at the west London vicarage on Thursday, have established a link with Marillion and the strongest clue to the gang's identity so far.

The group has a fan club and magazine both called "The Web" - a symbol which was first adopted by Marillion after the release of a song of that title.

Police contacted the group in Calgary, the latest stop in a tour of Canada and the United States.

Lead singer, Fish, aged 27, from Edinburg, immediately consented to a police request for the fan club membership lists.

Hopes fade for superpowers' summit meeting

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A further serious obstacle in the way of an agreement on a date for the second superpower summit has been imposed by Washington's decision to limit the number of Soviet diplomats working at the United Nations in New York and Moscow's furious public reaction to the move.

The new bitterness between the Kremlin and the White House, which erupted after Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, twice hinted to the Communist Party congress that the Soviet Union might back out of this year's meeting if it failed to secure a prior indication from Washington that an agreement on arms control could materialize.

Senior Western diplomats said here yesterday that the row over the alleged Soviet spies at the UN had increased the already burgeoning distrust between the superpowers.

Tass news agency described the US request for the number of Soviet diplomats to be cut from 275 to 170 by 1988 and the accompanying call for cuts in Soviet personnel at the Byelorussian and Ukrainian missions as an "unprecedented demand" which had been made on "far-fetched and groundless pretexts" in order to undermine the UN.

Yesterday the agency returned to the offensive with a six-page story in which it claimed that the US had failed to act against well-known perpetrators of "acts of terrorism" against foreign missions to the UN.

This was seen as part of a Kremlin tactic to use the expulsion demand as ammunition to step up its campaign for a switch in the venue of the UN headquarters.

BL sale to GM a live option, says Tebbit

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Tebbit indicated yesterday that an outright sale of BL to General Motors was still a live option.

The Conservative Party chairman, who is a member of the special Cabinet committee considering the BL privatization plans, agreed in an interview on TV-am that a sell-off to the American company could provoke a "massive backlash".

But he added: "I think this can be overcome if we could show it was the best course and we concluded it was the best course."

Meanwhile, Cabinet and Whitehall sources denied reports that outline decisions had been taken by last Thursday's Cabinet committee meeting.

One report suggested that Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had led a revolt against the GM bid and had swung support behind the proposals for a management buy-out of Land Rover.

A ministerial source laughed that off as absurd and a Whitehall source called it "pure fiction". Another report, that GM might be offered a 25 per cent share of Land Rover, was described as premature. Authoritative sources said that no options had yet been ruled out, including a straight sale to GM, and that members of the Cabinet committee were still uncertain on the final outcome.

One senior source said: "It is all extremely fluid." But Mr John Smith, the Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, yesterday accused the Government of putting "heavy pressure" on BL to back the GM bid at a board meeting tomorrow.

"This is part of the Government's obsession to sell out as soon as they can to General Motors," Mr Smith said. "It is quite wrong and I hope the BL board will resist."

Continued on page 2, col 3

Tomorrow Lawson to restore M3 money target

Laurel to restore M3 money target

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, aims to present a Budget a week tomorrow which will convince the financial markets that the Government's medium term strategy is still on course.

The Budget will include the return of the target for the broad measure of money supply, sterling M3, dropped six months ago.

Mr Lawson is also likely to stick rigidly to the £7.5 billion of public sector borrowing allowed for in the 1986-87 financial year under present plans.

This means that there will be no scope for net reductions in taxation. The Chancellor is likely to raise the duty on petrol, alcohol and cigarettes by more than is needed to compensate for inflation, using the proceeds either to cut income tax by also raising allowances by more than inflation, or by continuing with last year's programme of reducing National Insurance contributions for the lower paid.

The sterling M3 money measure was dropped by the Chancellor six months ago when it was rising at double its target rate. Although the Chancellor said he would review the position at Budget time, many City economists expected Mr Lawson to continue without sterling M3 as a target.

Until sterling M3, originally the cornerstone of the Government's financial strategy, was dropped last October, its target growth range was set at a tight 4-8 per cent for the financial year beginning next month.

However, the Chancellor may set a higher, but more credible target. Control of the money supply will be through interest rates, not through the "overfunding" - selling more government stock than is needed to cover public borrowing.

Two reports published today suggest that the Chancellor will go further next week than simply shifting between excise duties and income tax. Directors optimistic, page 17

Beirut kidnappings shock France

From Diana Geddes

Paris. France has been thrown into a state of shock by the seizure of four more Frenchmen by pro-Iranian extremists in Beirut, and by the news that Islamic Jihad is threatening to kill another of the original four hostages after the reported "execution" last week of M Michel Seurat, a sociologist.

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Paris originally claimed the police had committed "no fault" in expelling the two. M Pierre Joxe, Minister for the Interior, has called, however, for an immediate revision of all expulsion procedures and Mme Joelle Kaufmann, wife of one of the original hostages, said that President Mitterrand had described the expulsion of the two Iraqis as "a horrible story, a total blunder", when she saw him.

Argyll chief says he will not resign

Mr James Gulliver, chairman of the Argyll Group, which is bidding £2.3 billion for Distillers, admitted yesterday that part of his entry in Who's Who was incorrect. He said that there was no question of his resigning.

The entry suggested that Mr Gulliver was educated at the universities of Glasgow and Harvard. His American education included a three-week course in marketing at Harvard Business School, and a year at the Georgia Institute of Technology where he gained his American Master of Science degree. Details, page 17

Violence goes on in black townships

Johannesburg - Violence in South Africa's black townships showed no signs of ebbing at the weekend, despite Friday's lifting of the emergency (Michael Horsnell writes).

Police said a black girl was killed when they used shotguns to disperse a crowd in the Eastern Cape, and a man died when a black policeman shot at a mob.

A woman was killed by other blacks in northern Transvaal, and a man was stabbed to death in the Eastern Cape.

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Kidnap details, page 7

Laughing to the bank. Alongside soap operas, game shows are big earners in the television ratings war. The Times looks behind the bells, buzzers and banter. Milan élan. Suzy Menkes on Italy's return to form and fit.

Portfolio. The Times Portfolio weekly competition starts on Saturday by Mrs D L Moore of Wokingham, Berks. The daily prize of £2,000 was shared between Mr I S Hopkins of Walsall and Mr G Glynn of Bristol. Portfolio list, page 26; how to play and rules, information service, page 32.

Pay triumph. Women have won pay rises of up to £40 per week by using equal pay legislation, a TUC document discloses, and hundreds more claims are to be heard by industrial tribunals in the coming months Page 3

Royal setback. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were forced to abandon a ceremonial landing at Adelaide when heavy seas threatened to dash the royal barge against a jetty Page 9

Contras plea. President Reagan stepped up his struggle to secure \$100 million aid for the Nicaraguan Contras. Page 5

United out. Manchester United, the FA Cup holders, were knocked out of this season's competition when West Ham beat them 2-0. Page 23

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Businessmen losing millions in telex swindle, says CBI

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Thousands of UK businessmen have been swindled into paying for entries in bogus international telex directories, the Confederation of British Industry disclosed today.

Gullible British company directors have been tricked out of £10 million, said the CBI, and according to the Metropolitan Police fraud squad this has been happening for at least 10 years.

The employers' organization disclosed the swindle in the latest issue of *CBI News*.

and said that thousands of UK telex users have been tricked by West German and Swiss operators into paying for entries in the bogus directories and have then received bills, some for thousands of pounds.

The CBI said: "The swindle is known to the fraud squad who estimate that between 2 and 4 per cent of Britain's 104,000 telex subscribers have sent money to the fraudsters. The police say that even senior businessmen with more than 30 years experience have been duped and have paid up after persistent legal threats."

Companies have been receiving what looks like an offer of a free entry in an international directory and are deceived into thinking that the offer is merely confirming the details of its address for a free entry.

The next stage in the fraud operation, alleged the CBI, was an invoice for up to £1,000 for the 'ordered' entry. If the bill is not paid, companies are sent solicitors letters threatening legal action. If companies still do not pay they receive further solicitors letters making a substantially reduced offer to settle out of court, usually at about one third of the original sum. Unfortunately, the CBI says, "it is at this stage that most companies decide to pay up."

The CBI named as "the main culprit directories", LTD, said to be published by Telcom-Verlag, and the European Telex said to be published by Travo Informations AG, both of which, the CBI says, are operated by the same person.

Mr Norman Rose, deputy director of the CBI's legal division, said: "Despite the genuine and threatening nature of some solicitors' letters, under no circumstances should any money be sent."

The CBI also warns about a Liechtenstein company called Telex Public Corporation, which has been sending bills resembling British Telex bills. Hundreds of British firms are said to have paid these bills although British Telex does not charge a basic telex subscriber's entry.

Accountants in fraud checks 'premature'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Department of Trade and Industry officials yesterday rapidly backtracked over a report that an auditor might have a legal duty on accountants to report cases of fraud.

The report that the Government intends to amend the Financial Services Bill, now going through Parliament, was "grossly premature" according to one official.

But the Government has not ruled out the possibility of amending the Bill to impose such a requirement in a move to curb financial crime.

A department official emphasized that the Government had no wish to disrupt the "client-auditor" relationship, but was merely seeking to encourage auditors to be forthcoming in reporting back in their dealings.

It is possible that auditors would also be asked to report discrepancies that could lead to insolvency; factors that could lead to a breakdown of internal accounting; any intention that an auditor might have to resign and whether there is a need to qualify a report.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants is concerned that such a law might be difficult to frame because of the difficulty of deciding fraud.

Yesterday, Mr Nigel Moore, managing partner of the firm of chartered accountants Ernst and Whinney (London), said: "As auditors we are very keen to do what we can to help stamp out fraud. But we would have to be certain of the extent of our responsibilities."

The Government is concerned to be seen to be stamping down on fraud. In its criminal justice White Paper last week it reserved a view of whether to abolish trial by jury for complex fraud.

Teachers to cover for colleagues

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

All members of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, have been told to return to covering for absent colleagues as they did before the teachers' pay dispute began in February 1985.

The advice has been sent out as a direct result of the local authority employers' insistence at last week's talks on the pay settlement that teachers return to the status quo. It corrects the union's earlier advice that members were not contractually required to cover for a colleague who was off sick for more than one day.

As part of the pay settlement, the employers made the five smaller unions involved in the deal agree to return to normal duties so that the long-term talks under Sir John Wood could progress in an atmosphere of calm.

Some local authorities provide supply cover after the first day of an absence, others after the third day, and some not until the fifth day.

Essay-writing inquiry

Agencies which write student essays for a fee are to be investigated by the Department of Education and Science after a report in *The Sunday Times* on the London Essay Service.

It charges £8 a page for 250 typewritten words and will tackle any subject. The essays are claimed to be written by a panel of academics, teachers and writers.

Most prefer to remain anonymous, but one of the ghost-writers is Mr John Sinclair-Whiteley, a Canadian economics graduate who sold essays in Toronto.

The agency is based above an estate agent's office in King's Cross, London, and customers pay in cash.

About 58 undergraduates are already reported to be using its services, and London University administrators are concerned that they are breaking university regulations.

Paying fellow students to write essays is well known at Oxford and Cambridge.

Call for Burnham reform

By Our Education Correspondent

The smallest teachers' union, the Professional Association of Teachers, which has a no-strike policy, has claimed a dramatic increase in membership over the past 15 months and wants the composition of the Burnham negotiating committee reviewed again.

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary, said his membership had grown from 28,000 members at the beginning of last year to 42,000. He claimed the union should have two seats on the Burnham committee instead of one. The committee's composition was examined eight months ago by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Mr Dawson said: "In all justice we should have another seat. We know we are attracting members from the National Union of Teachers and our growth in Scotland is even faster."

Mr Dawson attributed the 48 per cent rise in membership to moderate teachers, particularly in rural primary schools, who felt alienated by the strike.

Mr Dawson said the composition of the Burnham committee should be reviewed annually.

The moderate Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, the third biggest organization for teachers, was also claiming a growth in membership. It said numbers had risen by 10,000 on the 95,000 claimed at the end of 1984.

But Mr Peter Smith, association assistant general secretary, had not asked for another review of the Burnham committee, nor did he believe in annual reviews. He said: "A review which reflected short-term and uncertain movements might be unhelpful. It is better done on a regular basis, say, every two or three years."

A substantial shake-out in teacher union membership is expected as a result of the 1985 pay dispute, with the militants heading in the direction of the 216,000-strong National Union of Teachers and the moderates congregating with ANIMA and the PAT.

The second biggest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which has 117,000 members, is thought to be in danger of losing numbers.

It was largely responsible for settling the 1985 pay dispute.



Cardinal Sin, Primate of the Philippines, preaching on the "the revolution of love" in his homeland, at a celebration Mass in Westminster Cathedral yesterday.

Alliance crisis on cruise averted

Welsh Liberals yesterday avoided a policy clash with the Social Democrats over cruise missiles.

Their annual conference at Llandudno rejected moves to campaign for the withdrawal of missiles based in Britain.

The potential embarrassment to Alliance harmony was contained in a defence motion clause which led to the most heated debate of the conference.

Their SDP partners are in favour of keeping cruise missiles, provided there is some form of dual-key control for the RAF.

Delegates supporting cruise withdrawal denied they were attempting to commit the Alliance to a policy of one-sided nuclear disarmament.

Proposing the motion, Mr Peter Black (Swansea East) said the Alliance had to show voters at the next election that it was serious about disarmament and preventing a nuclear war.

The conference unanimously approved the defence motion, after voting out the geriatric-cruise clause.

Tax union votes for political fund

The tax men became the first Civil Service union to vote for the establishment of a political fund under the Government's trade union laws.

Inland Revenue Staffs Federation members were a resounding 81.8 per cent, or 39,776 to 8,862 in favour of a fund.

In an unusually high poll, 87.4 per cent of the union's 55,000 membership took part, in spite of government attempts to persuade Civil Servants that it was unnecessary for them to have a political fund.

The result, announced yesterday, is another blow for the Government, which believed originally that the requirement to hold a ballot on political funds could affect Labour Party revenue.

Since the Act came into force, however, 34 unions have decided to retain their political fund and two, including the federation, have voted to create one. None has voted against.

Trade Union officials were jubilant at the result.

The IRSF said that the Government gave Civil Servants only limited time to vote after being threatened with legal action.

The Government's attitude was that political funds were unnecessary for Civil Servants because they threatened their neutrality.

Rates conflict

Labour clash expected on surcharges

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock will block all left-wing Labour attempts to indemnify Liverpool and Lambeth councillors who are facing surcharges of £200,000.

A new left-right confrontation is expected this week over the leadership decision, but Mr Kinnock is determined to resist demands for Labour to go into the next election with a commitment to give retrospective compensation to rebel councillors.

An appeal fund, which is being proposed by Dr John Cunningham, the party's environment spokesman, will allocate funds to those councillors who are faced with bankruptcy, and it is thought that Liverpool's Militant will point to the lowest priority in the voluntary bail-out.

A meeting of the Labour national executive's local government committee will discuss the appeal plan this morning, and left-wingers are expected to clash with the leadership on indemnification and a refusal to offer finance for any further legal action.

The disagreement will be underlined by a dispute over last year's party conference resolution on indemnification, which was passed on a show of hands.

Conference resolutions can become enshrined in party policy only if they are carried on a card vote with a two-thirds majority, and it is understood that Mr Kinnock has made sure that any votes at this year's party conference will fail to achieve that majority.

Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield council and a member of the party executive's local government committee, said on the BBC television programme *This Week, Next Week* programme yesterday that last year's conference resolution had pledged action to lift "the inquiry" of surcharge and disqualification.

He added, however: "You can't retrospectively lift disqualification. You would have to deal with the question of whether you compensated people who had been made bankrupt and I think what Neil Kinnock and others have been saying over the last few days is that the real chance now is to try and prevent people being made bankrupt."

There is absolutely no point in retrospectively trying to lift something that has destroyed the livelihoods and the well-being of ordinary individuals. Our task must be to try and prevent that now."

Mr Dave Nellist, the Militant-supporting MP for Coventry South East, said in the same programme that the Conservative Government had introduced retrospective legislation for people who had lost their jobs because of trade union closed shops.

"Now if it's good enough for the Tories to support and defend their class when it comes to the struggle, then nothing short of that for the Labour leadership is going to be good enough for the majority of the rank-and-file in the party," he said.

Mr Nellist said that there were another 220 Labour councillors in danger of surcharge.

Lower rates for some Londoners

By Colin Hughes

Shifts in government grant and the abolition of the Greater London Council at the end of this month will mean most London householders paying lower rates from April 1.

Reduced bills will also arise, in some of the high-spending, Labour-controlled inner London boroughs, from their decision not to fight this year's rate capping limits.

Changes in the calculation of government grant, announced at the end of last year, switched about £160 million from shire counties to the capital. The new system of assessing local councils' needs means that the concentration of social deprivation in the inner city merits more central government cash support.

In principle, the transfer of the extra grant which boroughs receive to run services from the GLC, after abolition, changes nothing. But in practice the boroughs will get about £60 million more than the GLC would have done, had it survived.

Together, the effects are that 16 of the 20 boroughs which have already set a rate, have cut their bills. The largest reduction is in Kensington and Chelsea, which already has one of the lowest pence in the pound rates in London, although its property values are high. Rates there are being slashed by 30.1 per cent, to 98.9 pence in the pound, which will mean the average household saving £224 a year.

Even in Camden, a renowned high-spender which is ratecapped, and received no government grant at all because it has been so heavily penalized, the increase will be only 0.2 per cent, to 227.95 pence in the pound. Brent, which is under narrow Conservative control and a prime target for Labour in the local council elections being held in London in May, has opted for a zero rate rise, as has the Conservative-controlled City of London.

The rate-capped councils' decision to abide by the law this year means a huge bonus for taxpayers in Hackney (11.2 per cent cut), Islington (18 per cent cut), Haringey (9.8 per cent cut), Southwark (6.9 per cent cut), and Lambeth (2.9 per cent cut). The other two rate-capped councils have settled for small increases within their limits: Greenwich rates will go up by 0.9 per cent, and Lewisham's by 6.8 per cent.

The councils' left wing leaders say they have only managed to achieve the Government's limits by rescheduling debts, creative accounting, raiding reserves, and borrowing so heavily that their finances will suffer severely in the early 1990s. Their anxieties, however, may be partly relieved by the announcement last week by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for the Environment, that most London boroughs will benefit from a share-out of the cash forfeited by overspenders in other parts of the country.

The second largest cut so far agreed is 16.5 per cent, in Hammersmith and Fulham, where the ruling Conservatives, who are narrowly keeping control with Alliance support, fear that the May elections could easily bring Labour back into power.

The other boroughs cutting rates are mostly Conservative: Bexley by 1.8 per cent, Havering by 2.2 per cent, Havering by 1 per cent, Kingston by 3.9 per cent, Merton by 5.1 per cent, Redbridge by 6 per cent, and Richmond by 1.6 per cent.

Visit sought from Moscow

An attempt to persuade Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Union's Foreign Minister, to fix a date for a visit to Britain will be made this week when Sir Brian Cartledge, the British Ambassador to Moscow, hands over the Prime Minister's response to Soviet disarmament proposals (Our Political Correspondent writes).

The visit is seen as part of the process of setting up a pre-election visit to Moscow by Mrs Thatcher.

Girl victim's route retraced

Miss Pat Ellis, aged 22, yesterday retraced the last steps of Karen Pooley, aged 18, a shorthand typist, who was last seen walking home to her flat after a night out at the Imperial Hotel, Colwyn Bay, North Wales. She was later strangled in a sexual attack.

Miss Ellis, who, like the victim, is only 4ft 10 ins tall, was wearing a blonde wig and clothes similar to those worn by the murdered girl.

Lichfield sued for £105,000

Lord Lichfield, the photographer, is being sued for £105,000 in a High Court claim over the relaunching of a Chelsea restaurant, Pier 31.

Mr William Henry Smith has issued a writ over an agreement made in June 1984 between himself, a company known as Pier 31 Ltd, Lord Lichfield and Mr Edward Hong Lim, of Exhibition Road, Chelsea.

Newborn baby eaten by dog

The dismembered body of a newborn baby which was partly eaten by a dog or fox has been discovered.

The upper torso of the child was found in the back garden of a house in Rayleigh, Essex on Saturday night.

Police traced the baby's mother yesterday and have questioned her, but will not release any further details.

Detective in Shergar case is dismissed

From Richard Ford Belfast

A detective in the Irish Republic's police force has been dismissed after an inquiry into the disappearance of a ransom payment, handed over for the missing race horse, Shergar.

Detective Garda Martin Kenirons, from Co Clare, was dismissed after an internal discipline inquiry found that he had breached sections of the force's 1971 regulations.

He was dismissed after the inquiry into the disappearance of Ir£80,000, which went missing from the boot of a car in Co Clare, in July 1983. The money was paid by Mr Stan Cosgrave, Shergar's vet, who gave it to a local man, who then claimed it had been stolen from the boot of his car.

Shergar, the winner of both the Epsom Derby and Irish Derby in 1981, was stolen from the Agha Khan's Ballymany stud in Co Kildare in February 1983.

Directors optimistic over business outlook

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Company directors are optimistic about business and employment prospects, but are dissatisfied with the Government's performance, according to the Institute of Directors' business opinion survey published yesterday.

The survey also concludes that most directors believe that the Chancellor should persevere with tax cuts in the Budget, in spite of the sharp drop in oil prices.

The survey finds that 74 per cent of directors have increased their volume of business during the past three months. That is the highest proportion since the survey, published every two months, began in October 1983.

Employment prospects appear to have improved considerably since the last survey, with 50 per cent of directors expecting to take on staff in the next six months.

Sir John Hoskins, the institute's director-general, said: "These results give grounds for optimism that February's better unemployment figures will mark the beginning of a better job-creation trend."

But 55 per cent of those taking part in the survey are dissatisfied with the Government. Most, 91 per cent, want the Government to introduce further trade union reform.

Britain taxes the poor more heavily than most other industrialized countries, with one in five taxpayers on less than £5,000 a year, according to *The Great Tax Divide*, a report published today by the Low Pay Unit.

The report says that the number caught in the poverty trap has increased five-fold since 1979. Low paid taxpayers only 4 per cent of income tax cuts awarded by the present government.

Kenneth Fleet and interest rate outlook, page 17

Pressure on to change the rape law

Continued from page 1

are from the area between the town and west London.

"The symbol of the web was not one of horror but of having and holding people together," Mr Armitage said.

More than 700 calls have been mounted at the incident centre in Hanwell where the police are basing their search for the three men.

A senior officer said about 400 pieces of information about the identity, whereabouts and criminal associations of the gang were now being investigated.

The brutal attack on Thursday has led to increasing pressure at the Home Office to scrap the law protecting rape defendants from being named.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary is believed to want to incorporate such a change in the criminal justice Bill planned for the next session of Parliament.

The ban on identifying rape defendants, under the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 1976, has provoked strong criticism from the police and MPs who claim it can hinder the hunt for rapists.

Abolition would have to be cleared with Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor.

The vicar, aged 53, and the woman's boyfriend, aged 25, are recovering in hospital from severe head injuries.

Chief Supt David Lamper said last night: "Continued attempts to obtain pictures and further details of the rapist is causing distress to a woman who has been through a horrendous ordeal."

BL sale to GM still a live option, Tebbit says

Continued from page 1

harm and a former GM employee, said on the BBC radio *World this Week* yesterday that he had misgivings about the GM bid for BL because under their global strategy Britain had been put on the "backburner" for the past decade.

He said: "Just beware GM's track record over the last 10 years has not been very good in Britain."

A spokesman for Lomho one of the contenders, said on the same programme that the information supplied to his company by BL had been "ludicrously" inadequate.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said that the sale arrangements had been totally incompetent.

"To deal with only one company in private over many months and then, without issuing any kind of prospectus and without opening up all the books to other people invite other bids for

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Lord Chancellors have misused their power, circuit judge claims

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Some Lord Chancellors have misused their power and there have been instances of political nepotism. Judge Pickles said in an attack on the system for appointing and dismissing judges.

Judge Pickles, who recently launched a personal campaign for the right of judges to speak out in the media, said that the present Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, had advisers of ability and integrity, and had those qualities himself.

but that others had appointed "their pals".

Speaking to solicitors at the conference of the British Legal Association in Cheltenham at the weekend, he criticized what he said was the Lord Chancellor's final say on appointments and dismissals of judges, QCs, recorders, magistrates and chairmen of tribunals.

"He need not give reasons; there is no appeal. This cannot be right."

The judge, who has come close to dismissal over press articles, called for a board or committee to decide whether a circuit judge should be dismissed. He also made a plea for more judges to be drawn from all ranks of society.

"We judges are looked on by many of our customers in an 'us and them' way. They think we are upper middle class with privileged backgrounds. They are right for the most part."

Judge Pickles also said there was a strong case for a Freedom of Information Act as in the United States of America. "In Great Britain we are grand on public ceremony, but the decisions which affect ordinary people's lives are often made behind closed doors. The searching light of publicity is the best guarantee against corruption."

He also called for a relaxation in the laws of libel. In the United States, he said, it was hard for people in public life to muzzle the media by bringing or threatening libel action.

Speaking on the theme "Power Corrupts", he added that one barrier against the misuse of power was a strong and independent legal profession.

The judge was making the latest of several public pronouncements in recent weeks which started with an article in a national newspaper explaining why he believed it was important for judges to be able to contribute to debate on matters of public interest.

It also gave "chapter and verse" of his correspondence with the Lord Chancellor who had taken him to task for writing in the press last year and showed that he had come close to dismissal.

Judges are not allowed to take part in public debate under the so-called Kilmuir rules and Judge Pickles believes it is time that these were reformed.

Judge Pickles called for "imagination and reasonableness" from magistrates, judges, the police and public officials when dealing with people, particularly those who were anti-authority. There were now those who openly defied judges and the law itself, he said.

"Such people, trade unionists or CND supporters, good-hearted people in every other respect, defied the law and it was important for judges to try to understand their points of view" and "convince them that we have acted reasonably".

There was a time to be tough, he added, but by adopting a tough line from the start a judge can make of a customer an enemy of the law and of authority in general.



Jimmy McCarthy, a National Theatre dresser, displaying an Ann Boleyn dress which was one of more than 1,000 costumes from productions dating back to the mid-sixties auctioned at the Lyttelton Theatre yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Women gain 28% increases in equal pay battle

Rises of up to 28 per cent, some as high as £30 and £40 a week, have been won by unions for women members by using changes in the equal pay legislation.

Breakthroughs are reported by the TUC in a document, published today, that will be discussed at the TUC women's conference in Leicester later this week.

It is expected that the successes will encourage thousands more women to fight for a better deal.

Hundreds of claims will go before industrial tribunals in the coming months, while, as in the past, unions hope that the threat of such action will be enough to make some employers concede an equal pay case.

Among successes reported are a 28 per cent increase for draughtswomen and £17 a week more for two industrial nurses who claimed equal value with labourers, packers and lorry drivers.

Cases pending could bring £30 a week more for women laboratory technicians and £20 for women packers.

The report shows that the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff has 24 equal-value claims before tribunals, with

another 114 covering nine companies being prepared. Miss Ada Maddocks, chairwoman of the TUC women's advisory committee, said: "The TUC is delighted at these gains for women. Unions are recognizing what can be achieved for women with careful and expert use of the legislation."

Company directors' salaries rose by an average of 10 per cent in the six months to February, compared with the 10.5 per cent average for the previous six months (our Industrial Editor writes).

Dual emerged from the latest Charterhouse study of senior management salaries, published today. It showed that a quarter of directors won increases of 7.2 per cent or less, with another quarter getting 12.3 per cent or more.

If bonus as well as salary is taken into account the earnings of the typical chairman or chief executive was up by about 11.1 per cent, showing no change from last October's survey.

Out of more than 1,000 companies studied, 61 per cent had executive share option schemes.

Top Management Remuneration UK (Monks Publications, Deben Green, Saffron Walden, CB11 3LX; £125).

Crisp claims silly, say health experts

By Robin Young

Nutritionists are furious that a report to be published today by Professor Don Naismith, professor of nutrition and food sciences at King's College, London, represents potato crisps as a nutritious part of a balanced diet.

"Manufacturers in America have been successfully pro-

Smokers who want to give up should eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, it has been suggested.

Research in the United States has shown that smoking immediately after smoking a cigarette reduces the rate at which the addictive nicotine leaves the body, and so extends the time before the smoker craves the next. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau said that this was because all fruit, even oranges and grapefruit, had an alkaline effect. A high acid liquid expelled the nicotine quickly, leaving the need for another "fix".

quoted for using misleading comparisons, and if some of the claims Professor Naismith is reported to have made were reproduced in paid advertising they would be liable to prosecution here, too, under the Food and Drugs Act", Mr Geoffrey Cannon, co-author of the book *The Food Scandal*, said.

Dr John Brown, the nutritionist of the Health Education Council, said that some of the claims Professor Naismith

advanced for potato crisps were "judiciously silly".

Professor Naismith is paid consultant to the Snack, Nut and Crisp Manufacturers' Association (SNACMA), an organization formed in 1983 which includes all the leading crisp manufacturers, and his "12 months exhaustive study" of potato crisps was funded by SNACMA.

His reported findings include the suggestion that crisps contain more fibre than wholemeal bread and six times as much vitamin C as an apple. Mr Cannon and Dr Brown say the comparisons are misleading because both the bread (30 per cent) and the apple (85 per cent) contain much higher proportions of water than crisps (2 per cent), and apples are, in any case, a poor source of vitamin C.

Crisps, Professor Naismith says, have less salt than Cornflakes. A standard pack of crisps, he claims, would give the teenage child about one twentieth of his energy needs.

Crisp manufacturers intend to launch a campaign to promote what they call "healthy snacking". With Professor Naismith's endorsement they intend to promote potato crisps as "an ideal snack with a part to play in a balanced diet".

Mr Cannon and Dr Brown agree with Professor Naismith that crisps are far healthier than chocolate confectionery, but say that mashed or jacket potato would be healthier still.

Threat to nurses' homes

Up to 50,000 nurses may lose their homes over the next two years as National Health Service property is sold off, a report published today says. The report coincided with a warning from the British Medical Association that the NHS could not develop services and meet pay and price rises within the funds provided.

The report, in *Sheher's* housing magazine, *Roof*, says more than £750 million could be raised for the NHS from the sale of nurses' homes, flats and houses. But nursing and ancillary staff who had to move out would have great difficulty finding alternative accommodation.

Health authorities had to draw up property disposal plans after a Rayner scrutiny on accommodation and a Department of Health and Social Security circular issued last July. The plans are awaiting approval by the department so that they can be put into effect.

The report says that some authorities have already started evicting staff and selling properties.

Only doctors and learner nurses will be housed in future, but some authorities were interpreting that strictly to mean first-year learners.

"The effect on staff will be dramatic", the report says. "Nurses will leave the profession and recruitment will be difficult."

The cash crisis warning by the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing and the Institute of Health Service Managers to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, emphasizes that in spite of apparently large increases in the number of patients being treated in the NHS there has been no dramatic improvements in the waiting lists and the figures "may simply mean that a revolving door policy has been adopted with the same patients being readmitted for further treatment."

Cuts in services may be passed off as real economies, the memorandum said.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Health Authorities announced plans to develop a new strategy to counter violent attacks on nurses. It will ask health authorities to provide details of incidents and will make recommendations for trouble-spots.

French may join fight over business hotels

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Fierce rivalry to attract business travellers to low-cost hotels is likely to begin in the summer as the Granada Group enters a market dominated by Trusthouse Forte. But there are signs of further competition from French hotel companies.

The aim is provide accommodation for about half the costs charged by a typical chain hotel, dealing mainly with businessmen.

Granada is planning a chain of Granada Lodges, with 20 to 30 hotels being set up fairly quickly to achieve national impact. The first two, opening this summer, will together cost around £2 million.

Trusthouse Forte, Britain's biggest hotel company, has opened two Little Chef Lodges and plans about 100.

But there is speculation that French specialists in this developing market are poised to expand in Britain.

Companies linked with Accor, the big French hotel operator, already have a foothold. It has a hotel at Heathrow Airport, costing £5 below the going two-star rate, and is opening another near Euston railway station in July next year.

The low-cost hotels are aimed at businessmen making overnight stays who do not want to pay for facilities such as saunas or swimming pools.

Heathrow and Gatwick overstretched

Battle over Stansted move

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A fresh storm is brewing over London's airports, with government moves expected to force airlines away from Heathrow and Gatwick to Stansted.

They will be resisted by airlines, which argue that an enforced move would damage profitability and impose extra cost and inconvenience on passengers.

The Government is unlikely to be moved, however, because Heathrow and Gatwick are overcrowded, while Stansted is hardly used. It recalls a similar situation in the 1960s and early 1970s when airlines had to be dragged from Heathrow to a Gatwick they have now learned to love.

Heathrow, with nearly 30 million passengers a year, has practically reached its limits, and flights are severely restricted at the peak. The new

terminal four, opening next month, will raise passenger capacity to 38 million, but will do nothing to increase flight capacity on the two heavily used runways.

Gatwick, although theoretically less busy than Heathrow with about 13 million passengers a year, is beginning to suffer from similar strains because take-offs and landings are on a single runway.

The new terminal will raise passenger capacity to 25 million next year, but will do nothing for flight capacity.

London's fourth airport, at Luton, is expected to grow steadily from its present three million passengers a year, but physical constraints will limit the ultimate total to about five million.

That leaves Stansted, whose huge single runway is heavily under-used. Its tiny passenger terminal four, opening next month, will raise passenger capacity to 38 million, but will do nothing to increase flight capacity on the two heavily used runways.

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Plan for 'super' music academy

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A plan to turn the Royal Academy of Music into a super academy to produce fewer, but better musicians, is being considered by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The other music colleges are protesting strongly at the implicit threat to relegate them to second status, and have told

Sir Keith that a single centre of excellence would be bad for British music. A decision is expected within weeks.

The Royal Academy proposes to reduce its student numbers from 625 to 480, and to set aside 150 places for gifted soloists who, it maintains, are forced to leave Britain to seek the intensive training they need abroad.

Last week the academy launched an appeal for private

funding for the scheme, described as "the Pursuit of Excellence." In which it asked for £4.5 million. There is some dispute in music education circles about whether Britain is falling behind other countries and the reasons for this.

Sir David Lumsden, the academy's principal, says that British trusts spend thousands of pounds each year on scholarships to fund students to go overseas.

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Pupils of Bedales restoring the barn: (left to right) Simon Scott, Sophie Hartman, Olivia Lacey and Luke Poore.

Wendy Savage inquiry

A victim of conspiracy, counsel says at finish

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Mrs Wendy Savage's practice of obstetrics was not eccentric or bizarre, but "right in the middle of mainstream obstetric opinion as it is in 1986", the inquiry into allegations of professional incompetence against her was told on Saturday, the final day of the five-week hearing.

She was the victim of a conspiracy, Mr John Hendy, her counsel alleged, and for Mrs Savage to be branded a liar and an incompetent was "monstrous".

Only one of the five cases about which she was charged was worthy of consideration by the inquiry, Mr Hendy said.

Professor John Dennis, Professor of Obstetrics at Southampton University, who was called in by the health authority to give expert opinion on the cases, had said that four of the five cases could have occurred to most obstetricians and information about more

New towns' guide for inner cities

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A central urban development corporation responsible for co-ordinating action to regenerate inner cities is recommended in a report by the Government by the chairmen of the new towns.

It would be set up on the lines of the development corporations for the new towns and for London's docklands and Merseyside which have proved successful.

The report, prepared by Telford Development Corporation, is being studied by ministers at the Department of the Environment.

It claims that in spite of the urban programme, the main plank of official regeneration policy, there is continuing decline. It is one of multiple deprivation: economic, physical and social. The report calls

Pressure for decision on Sizewell

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The report of the Sizewell public inquiry, which ended last March, has been delayed because the Government has, in effect, changed the rules.

Sir Frank Layfield, the chairman, is being pressed to rule for or against the proposal to build a pressurized water reactor on the Suffolk coast, instead of giving the expected qualified assessment.

There is no possibility, however, of a simple "yes" or

Select committees: 1

Underestimated system comes of age

Whatever the Westland affair may have done to the Conservative Party, it has been a tonic for the select committee system in the House of Commons. Suddenly, backbenchers who have lived obscure lives up and down the interminable committee room corridor, which runs almost the whole length of the Palace of Westminster, are walking with a new spring in their step, their role in exercising the authority of the legislature over the executive has at last been vindicated.

Yet the powers the defence committee has used to summon mandarins and confidential drafts has existed from time immemorial, and it remains uncertain whether the committee will, in practice, succeed in interrogating staff from the Prime Minister's private office.

Most probably a compromise will be reached some way short of absolute victory or absolute rebuff. In theory a government might seem to have little to fear from the insatiable curiosity of select

committees, which derive their powers ultimately from the House of Commons, where the government has a majority, and whose membership broadly reflects the political balance of forces in the Commons.

In practice, the necessity for a government to give reasons to the House for rejecting a request could embarrass it as much as anything which might come out in committee. As Sir Anthony Kershaw, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, points out, if the Government does refuse to allow the Civil Servants to appear before the defence committee in face of a firm demand, it will look like a cover-up.

The constitutional position

as to the powers of committees is fairly clear. They have a general power to choose their areas of inquiry and to summon persons and papers, although they have no sanction against witnesses who refuse to answer. Civil Servants are required by their own codes to follow their ministers' instructions.

When the defence committee asked to see Mr Bernard Ingham and his Civil Service colleagues, Mrs Thatcher replied carefully that a summons to private secretaries and personal staff (as distinct from advisers on broad policy) raised major implications which would "need to be thought about".

The committees' powers are limited. Of the 275 reports

Barnyard look is popular at school

By Charles Knerritt, Architecture Correspondent

Pupils of Bedales school at Petersfield in Hampshire are rebuilding a barn from Bonhams farm, near Alton, Hampshire, to provide a stable, forge, tool-house and kitchen with a baking oven for their outdoor work project in the school grounds.

It is the second barn to be dismantled, transported and rebuilt at the school. The first, Sotherington barn, dating from the eighteenth century, came from Selborne, Hampshire, and is used as a large dry working area, carbosene and strong room.

Manual labour has been part of the curriculum at the school since it was founded. The Outdoor Work Department has been growing and selling thousands of trees and fruit since 1975.

Mr John Rogers, the master in charge of the department, said that the barnyard should be completed this summer, when it will also be used by members of the local conservation volunteers.

The project is one of 33 short-listed entries in *The Times*/RIBA Community Enterprise Scheme. The awards will be presented by its patron, the Prince of Wales, in June.

The school is within £1,000 of paying for the barnyard, which is costing £23,000. Of that the children have raised about a third. Old Bedalians and Hampshire County Council, with other grant-making bodies, has given the balance.

Sarah Mees, aged 16, the department's accountant, explained that it also sells fruit, eggs, and poultry, and expects soon to offer furniture made from the school's own timber. Turnover is about £5,000 a year, with a £1,000 surplus.

Manual work is compulsory for those in the first two years of the school.

Arts and crafts, rural skills and work out of doors have been a central part of the curriculum since J.H. Badley created the school at the end of the last century.

Death threats to King of Sweden follow murder of Mr Palme

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Security police have stepped up their guard on the Swedish royal family after a series of death threats.

The First Marshal of the Royal Court, Mr Lenart Ahren, said the threats had come in anonymous telephone calls to the palace in Stockholm. Police had been informed immediately, he said.

King Carl Gustaf was reported to be "shaken" by the threats, which are being taken with added seriousness by the security police after the assassination on February 28 of the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme.

The King, Queen Silvia, and the three royal children, Crown Princess Victoria, aged eight, Prince Carl Philip, aged five, and Princess Madeleine, aged two, were now receiving added protection, said a police spokesman.

Meanwhile, police hunting Mr Palme's killer, whom they describe as "a professional murderer", appealed for an anonymous letter-writer who may have seen the assassin to come forward.

The Stockholm police chief, Mr Hans Holmer, said the letter had been sent to police soon after Mr Palme was murdered. The writer claimed to have passed the spot where Mr Palme was killed at the time of the murder and had made "certain observations". Mr Holmer said he could

reveal no more at this stage.

Sweden will observe one minute of silence today to honour the memory of Mr Palme. At noon (11.00 GMT) all trains, underground trains, buses, taxis and — it is expected — most private cars will halt. Work in factories and shops will stop, and in schools and day-care centres children and teachers will stand in silent tribute to Mr Palme.

The minute of silence will be led from Parliament, where MPs will also hear a programme of solemn music played by members of the Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, a speech by the Speaker, Mr Ingemar Bengtsson, in tribute to Mr Palme, and the singing of the Negro spiritual "Deep River" by the Stockholm Cathedral choir.

Poems will be read by the actor Jan-Olof Strandberg, and tributes to Mr Palme will be paid by opposition leaders with whom he could be scathingly critical in parliamentary debates.

Tomorrow Mr Ingvar Carlsson will be presented formally to Parliament as Mr Palme's successor by Mr Bengtsson. On Wednesday he will be sworn in.

Preparations for Mr Palme's state funeral on Saturday are continuing. More than 1,000 police will be on duty to protect up to 600 guests from around the world. They include President Mitterrand of

France, President Soares of Portugal, President Kaunda of Zambia, the United Nations Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former West German Chancellor, Herr Willy Brandt, and the Greek Minister of Culture, Miss Melina Mercouri.

Tributes to Mr Palme will be paid by Mr Carlsson, Mr Sten Andersson, the Foreign Minister, King Carl Gustaf, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, Mr Gandhi, Mr Kalevi Sorsa, the Finnish Prime Minister, Miss Anna Lindh, leader of Sweden's Young Socialists, Mr Stig Malm, chairman of the Swedish Confederation of Trade Unions, and by Herr Brandt.

A song will be sung by the Finnish vocalist, Miss Arja Saijonmaa, and music will be provided by a Swedish jazz orchestra led by the alto saxophonist Arne Domnerus.

After the televised service in Stockholm Town Hall, Mr Palme's flower-decked coffin will be carried through the streets of Stockholm. Mr Palme will be buried at Adolf Fredrik's Church, a few hundred yards from where he was killed.

ANKARA: Swedish police hunting Mr Palme's killer are looking for three Kurdish guerrillas, the Turkish newspaper *Milliyet* said yesterday (Reuter reports).

Delors switches EEC to the back burner in view of French poll

From Richard Owen, Brussels

These are quiet days at the Berlaymont headquarters of the EEC Commission, partly because the Commission is wary of the impact of anything it might do on the French elections next weekend. M Jacques Delors, President of the Commission, is a former French Finance Minister.

At least two important issues — farm prices and the regulation of European television — are in abeyance until next week, with EEC reports temporarily shelved and decisions postponed. Both are

sensitive issues in French politics.

This lull is also due to a reduction this year in the number of EEC summits from three to two. Heads of Government will gather in June in The Hague and December in London, but the summit which would have taken place in Brussels this month has been cancelled.

Behind the scenes however the Twelve are gearing up for co-ordinated action on two fronts: internal reform after the referendum in Denmark and foreign policy and trade

against the background of a fall in both the dollar and oil prices.

EEC Foreign Ministers meet today to tackle trade relations with the United States and Japan, taking up Sir Geoffrey Howe's call last week for European industry to match American singleness of purpose and Japanese homogeneity.

Above all, in the wake of the "yes" vote on EEC reforms in last month's Danish referendum, the Twelve are set to move forward to creating a full internal market.

Stabbing ends quiet of poll campaign

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The hitherto remarkably peaceful French election campaign erupted into violence at the weekend when a Socialist supporter was stabbed to death by a National Front supporter after he had taken down an NF poster from an official campaign hoarding reserved for the Socialists.

The incident occurred just after 9.30 pm on Friday at Croissy-sur-Seine, in the Yvelines, outside Paris, where M Michel Rocard, former Agriculture Minister and self-declared candidate for the presidential elections, heads the Socialist list.

Philippe Brocard, aged 35, a Rocard supporter, had agreed to help two Socialist militants to put up posters.

Finding one covered by posters of the extreme-right National Front, they were attempting to tear them off when three cars, with their lights off, suddenly emerged from the darkness and six men jumped out.

"They were wearing a kind of paramilitary uniform, complete with leather jackets and crewcut hair," M Jean-Jacques Gaucher, a Socialist municipal councillor, said. "A row immediately broke out. They said to me: 'So, you don't like our posters?'"



M Laurent Fabius, the French Prime Minister, answering questions from journalists yesterday.

French elections: Part 1

Silver lining too late for Socialists

By Diana Geddes

"If the elections go against the Socialists, it will be because of unemployment," President Mitterrand admitted in a recent television interview.

He described the 37 per cent rise in the number out of work in the past five years as his Government's main failure.

The Socialists came to power in May, 1981, promising to reduce unemployment. There were then 1.7 million unemployed: now there are 2.4 million.

The Opposition insists that the real number is more than three million, if those taken off the register by such "cosmetic" measures as early retirement and youth community work are included.

All the polls show that unemployment is by far the most important preoccupation today. Yet it has failed to become a hot election issue. This is largely because the prospect of post-election "collaboration" of a right-wing government with a left-wing President has dominated the campaign, but also because the Opposition knows that, in the

short term at least, it is unlikely to fare any better in tackling unemployment than the Socialists. It is certainly not making any promises.

Unemployment aside, the Socialists like to claim that their economic record is one of their strong points. Indeed, they have recently based their campaign on the idea that it would be foolish to throw out the present Government just when it is beginning to reap what it has sown and untarred over the previous five years.

Inflation, they point out, is below 5 per cent, its lowest level for 17 years. Industrial investment is picking up. Business profits are rising. Interest rates are falling. Price and exchange controls are being removed. The number of days lost through strikes is the lowest since 1946.

Taxes have been cut for the first time in more than a decade. Real wages are going up. Unemployment, although unacceptably high, has never-

theless fallen slightly over the past year. The balance of payments is in surplus and the franc is stable.

You see, the Socialists say, the economy is well on the road to recovery. Not at all, the Opposition replies. Having once had one of the highest growth rates of any industrialized country, France now has one of the lowest. In the past five years the economy has grown by an average of 1.1 per cent a year, compared with 2.7 per cent over the previous five years.

Total investment is 8 per cent lower than in 1980.

Industrial production is stagnating. Exports have been declining as a proportion of the world market. The foreign debt has tripled to 488 billion francs (£49 billion). The franc, devalued three times by the Socialists, is now being shored up by high interest rates.

Bankruptcies are running at a record 26,500 a year, it says, but fails to point out that new companies are being set up at a record 104,000 a year. The total burden of taxation rose under the Socialists to a record 45.4 per cent of gross domestic product, and has been cut by only 0.2 of a percentage point.

In many ways, the elections have come too early for the Socialists. Although they have marked up some commendable achievements, they have mostly come too late to be felt by the man in the street.

They look as if they will miss out entirely on the windfall, estimated at between \$4 billion and 70 billion francs this year, from the spectacular fall in the dollar and in the price of oil.

Norway angered by snow tragedy

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Norway's grief at the deaths of 16 young soldiers in an avalanche last week was increasingly mingled with rage yesterday as the nation sought to untangle the chain of events that led to the tragedy.

"Who gave the order?" asked *Dagbladet*, the second-largest national newspaper, on the front page of its weekend edition. Since Wednesday, when the avalanche buried 31 men, all members of the Norwegian Brigade North Engineering Corps, it has become clear that the dangers of entering the remote valley of Vafaldalen, near the port of Narvik on the Norwegian Sea, were well known.

"Anchor Express" which was to have been one of NATO's largest winter exercises involving 20,000 troops, was called off after the tragedy.

Some of the most damning public testimony has come from Lieutenant Agnar Kvermo of the local Home Guard, who has known Vafaldalen all his life.

Lieutenant Kvermo is adamant that as early as last Monday he briefed two avalanche experts on NATO's behalf. "I told them 'if you send soldiers into this area there will be a serious accident'", he said.

The lieutenant takes vigorous exception to remarks by General Fredrik Bull-Hansen, the Norwegian Defence Chief, that avalanches were unusual in Vafaldalen. "I can only imagine that those statements were snatched from thin air. Everybody who knows this area knows about the danger."

An ugly incident marred a memorial service for the victims on Friday at a barracks in the parish of nearby Oeverbygd. A photographer from the national press agency, NTB, was roughed up and his camera confiscated after he allegedly violated an undertaking not to take close-up pictures of the dead soldiers' weeping comrades.

Bowing to public pressure, the Government has agreed to appoint a civilian and not a military commission of inquiry into the events at Vafaldalen. It is to be headed by Mrs Agnes Haug, aged 53, an assize-court judge.

Reagan piles on the rhetoric in attempt to clinch Contra aid

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan stepped up his efforts over the weekend to secure \$100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, saying the vote by Congress on March 19 would be of "supreme importance", and insisting that only his policy "can keep Central America free without committing American troops".

The days of pretending Nicaragua is an innocent land of peace wishing only to live in harmony with its people and neighbours have long passed", Mr Reagan said in his weekly radio address. "Nicaragua is a country held captive by a cruel clique of deeply committed Communists at war with God and man. How can Congress ignore this storm gathering so close to our homeland?"

He challenged Congress to "stand up for freedom" and said the Contras needed US military aid because, without power, diplomacy would be without leverage.

This week the President will hold a series of private meetings to lobby members of a sceptical Congress. He intends to emphasize his commitment to negotiation and the diplomatic process, and will insist

that Mr Philip Habib, his new special envoy to the region, will only be able to do his job if the President has bipartisan support at home.

Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut said yesterday, however: "This Administration wants to overthrow the Sandinista Government. It says it just wants to bring them to the negotiating table. Absolutely no one believes that."

Another Democrat, Representative Michael Barnes, said: "If we go down this road of increasing military confrontation with Nicaragua, it leads almost inevitably to the commitment of US troops." He also strongly attacked the White House for what he called "the worst rhetoric we've heard in America since the 1950s".

To secure the aid, Mr Reagan must win over at least 65 members from both parties in the House of Representatives. He will make a nationwide television address on Sunday, in an attempt to influence the vote three days later.

Despite increasingly belligerent talk from the White House, there were signs over the weekend that the Administration was ready to compromise. Under one plan, proposed by Senator James Sasser of Tennessee, military aid for the rebels would be frozen for six months while efforts are made to start talks.

If Nicaragua failed to negotiate, the money would be released. On Saturday Mr Sasser met Mr Elliott Abrams, the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, to discuss his proposal. He said Mr Abrams expressed "reservations" about the delay, but did not reject the plan outright.

However, he said on television yesterday: "The President is not looking for compromise at this point. He is looking for 218 votes in the House."

The stakes are now high, and some senior officials fear that the Administration's rhetoric has been too harsh and that an obstinate Congress will not pass direct aid to the Contras without a compromise.

US policy opposed in region

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Latin American opposition to President Reagan's policies in Central America has never been more united.

The Governments of eight Latin American nations, including the three most powerful, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, declared this month that there was an "imperative need" for an end to foreign support for insurgencies in Central America, a pointed reference to Mr Reagan's proposal for aid to the Contras.

Both US and Honduran officials in Honduras, which has long been the base camp for the bulk of the Contra forces, have said in recent interviews that the chances of the Contras overthrowing Nicaragua's Sandinista Government are virtually nil. Questions have even been raised about the Contras' willingness to fight.

The appointment of Mr Philip Habib as Washington's special envoy has not impressed Nicaraguan officials. They see his expected visit to the region this week as an effort to bolster a proposal by President Duarte of El Salvador, apparently inspired by his US backers, for simultaneous peace talks between the government and rebels of both El Salvador and Nicaragua.



The children of former Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier playing on the terrace of the family's assigned villa, near Grasse in the South of France, after being moved there from a luxury hotel in the Alpine resort of Talloires last week.

Leaders of Europe attend Soares inauguration

Lisbon - Dr Mario Soares was sworn in as President of Portugal in the Parliament building here yesterday in the presence of 2,000 illustrious guests. They included President Mitterrand of France, Signor Bettino Craxi and Senator Felipe González, respectively, the Prime Ministers of Italy and Spain, and Lord Carrington, Nato's Secretary-General (Martha de la Cal writes).

Britain was represented by Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House of Commons, the United States by Vice-President George Bush and the Soviet Union by the Deputy President of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet, Mr Vladimir Orlov.

Several heads of state of Portuguese-speaking African countries were also present. The pomp and circum-

stance of the ceremony was seen as an indication of the type of presidency which can be expected from Dr Soares, in contrast to that of the outgoing President Eanes, an austere and stern man, who took little part in ostentatious ceremonies.

Chill in US-Soviet relations

UN cuts add to summit doubts

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The enforced cut in Soviet diplomats at the United Nations marks the latest in a series of incidents that have rapidly chilled Soviet-American relations and casts further doubts over Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's proposed summit visit here later this year.

The United States insists the cutback should not damage overall relations with Moscow or add to the controversy now surrounding the summit, and that it is doing nothing to set back relations. It cited the resumption soon of air links between the Soviet Union and the US and the preparations for the opening of Soviet and American consulates in New York and Kiev as examples that agreements reached in Geneva were being carried out.

But in light of the sharp Tass reaction and recent statements in Moscow, there is no doubt that the improvement in relations that followed the Geneva summit last November has all but disappeared.

Officials here said a task force had been working for months on the problem posed by the large UN staff of the Soviet Union, Byelorussia and Ukraine, which have separate UN seats. The FBI was concerned that it was no longer able to keep track of so many people from the Soviet bloc, many of whom are suspected of being spies.

The move comes after a series of angry exchanges on such issues as arms control, the date of the next summit, the President's appeal for a continued defence build-up and the access of Soviet commentators to American television. The issues are not necessarily related, but have combined to produce an impression that the White House is taking a more combative line towards Moscow than it did just after the summit.

The Americans have been angered by what they see as Mr Gorbachov's reneging on his commitment to come here in June or July, and reject any attempt to link his visit with progress in arms control. Last week Mr Reagan said bluntly that, if the Soviet leader did not come, he would not go to Moscow in 1987.

On arms control, the President sent a firmly worded letter to Moscow recently in reply to the latest Soviet proposals for the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons. The letter is understood to have linked progress to Soviet good faith and actions in Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Angola and elsewhere around the world. It drew an angry reaction from Moscow.

But Mr Richard Perle, the Assistant Secretary of Defence, said at the end of last week's round of Geneva talks that the Russians were negotiating in bad faith, and they clearly knew their proposals on the non-modernization of British and French missiles would be unacceptable to the US.

Mr Reagan's television address calling for no cuts in defence spending was also more reminiscent of his strident anti-Soviet rhetoric than of his more measured tones before the Geneva summit. He suggested that the Russians - "our adversaries" - never understood anything but force, and that only the threat of American military strength would bring them to the negotiating table. Moscow again reacted sharply.

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Astronaut says lives at stake

From Michael Binyon, Washington

In the first public indication of widespread anger among astronauts at the way Nasa has been running the shuttle programme, a senior astronaut accused the agency over the weekend of endangering his colleagues' lives to meet a tight launch schedule.

Mr John Young, chief of Nasa's Astronaut Office, made the complaint in a memorandum on March 4, which was released by Nasa on Saturday. He gave an "awesome" list of safety problems since October 1984.

"If the management system is not big enough to stop the space shuttle programme whenever necessary to make flight safety corrections, it will not survive and neither will our three space shuttles or their flight crews," he said.

The memorandum, addressed to the head of crew operations at Houston and to Admiral Richard Truly, the new chief of the shuttle programme, was distributed to the other 95 astronauts.

Mr Young questioned the Nasa management system that had allowed the launch despite problems with the solid rocket booster seals.

He said there had already been launches without full redundancy and back-up systems.

Any back-up system failure could have resulted in the loss of craft and crew.

Waldheim hits at accusers

Vienna (Reuter) - The former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr Kurt Waldheim, denied allegations that he had a Nazi past and accused *The New York Times* of spreading the most grotesque stories about him.

"I was neither a member of the Brownshirts (SA) nor of the Student Federation," he said in an interview on Austrian television.

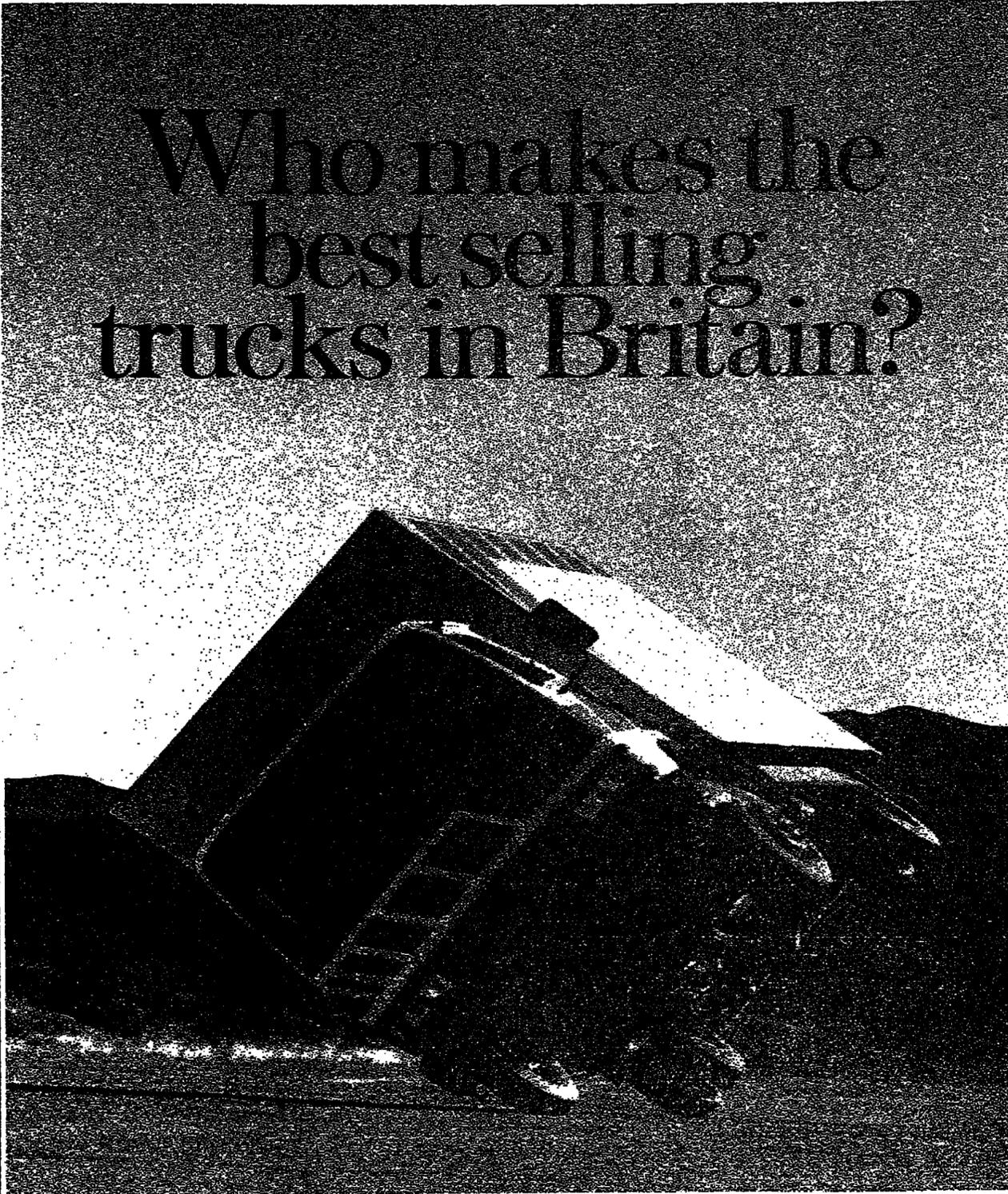
"This is a most deliberate smear campaign against me, of a kind unprecedented in Austria's postwar history," he said emotionally. "All these allegations are untrue."

Last Tuesday *The New York Times* indirectly quoted Dr Waldheim - presidential candidate for Austria's conservative opposition People's Party - as admitting membership of the two Nazi groups. The paper also said he was attached to a German unit that fought brutal campaigns against Yugoslav partisans and deported Greek Jews.

In the interview, Dr Waldheim said: "I must say, once and for all, that I am sick of being told I am not telling the truth... I shall take every step against such slanders, if it carries on."

He had been checked by the secret services of all the major powers before becoming UN Secretary-General in 1972, he said, asking whether they would have passed him for the post if he had been found to have "a single brown spot".

Who makes the best selling trucks in Britain?



There are 500 words in this advertisement.

Each one is worth reading very, very carefully. Because they develop an argument which, when followed through to its logical conclusion, could lead the way to the formation of a new company with an annual turnover well over £6,000,000,000. (Half of which comes from related businesses.)

The two companies are United Biscuits and Imperial.

United Biscuits are front-runners in the food market and expanding fast in leisure.

Imperial are leaders in the food,

of America.

One of those brands is Pizzaland whose restaurant opening programme will be accelerated.

On the subject of overseas markets, United's growing presence in North America, Hong Kong, Japan and the Third World will open new doors for Imperial. Much as their world markets will be introduced to us.

Two frozen peas in a pod.

One of the fastest growing world markets is Frozen Foods.

The home market as much as the catering market.

Consider these 500 words carefully. Each one could be worth £12 million.

leisure and tobacco markets. (See? Common ground already.)

By joining forces, our combined turnover, based on 1985 sales, will be well above £6 billion.

One and one is more than two.

From this point on, the words grow progressively more valuable.

If our combination stood only for a pooling of sales, our argument would be strong.

What makes it incontrovertible and so potentially fruitful, is how those common resources could be exploited.

Imperial presently control over 6,000 pubs, restaurants and shops.

Ready markets for United Biscuits' crisps, snacks, confectionery, pizzas and burgers.

Simply by coming together, we could substantially increase our penetration into these outlets.

Two vans can't live as cheaply as one.

All those pubs and restaurants, as well as a nationwide network of tobacconists, need regular replenishment.

By bringing together our distribution and wholesale operations, we anticipate an impressive reduction in overheads.

Imperial's strong cash flow will provide a rich source of funds to invest back into our brands both at home and in the United States

Imperial, with Ross and Youngs, are strong in supermarkets. We're both growing fast in the catering trade.

Together, we can consolidate our successes and create a giant bigger than the jolly green one.

Even more resourceful.

As you read this, there's a team of people at United Biscuits working hard on new product development. Our record testifies to their successes in the past.

Round the corner, at Imperial, another team is busy on their new product development.

It's easy to imagine how the pooling of those resources could benefit both companies.

Ask the other half.

It's not just United who want Imperial.

It's Imperial who want United. Both of us know just how well suited we are to each other.

Just how powerful a force we can be together.

However many words others may give you, in the long term they just can't add up to the same value.

And in the long run, it's not words that count.

But the value behind them.

United Imperial

THE LONGER YOU LOOK AT IT, THE MORE IT MAKES SENSE.



Shia Muslim campaign against France Islamic Jihad claims TV crew kidnapping

From Our Correspondent
Beirut

The underground war of Lebanon's Shia Muslim extremists against France took a new turn yesterday when the obscure Islamic Jihad organization claimed it had "detained for questioning" a four-man French television crew.

One day after the abduction in a Muslim suburb of west Beirut, there was no word on the men's fate, but the claim, made by an anonymous telephone caller to a Western news agency, suggested they could be set free. The caller made no demands.

The Frenchmen were sent to Beirut after claims that Michel Seurat, one of four Frenchmen Islamic Jihad says it kidnapped in May, had been killed in reprisal for France's deportation of two pro-Iraqi activists to Baghdad where, according to some reports, they face possible execution.

The male caller said the television crew, working for Antenne-2, were detained in the seaside Jnah district on Saturday afternoon. He identified the four as Philippe

Rochot, Georges Hansen, Aurel Cornac and Jean-Louis Normandin. The caller cited the crew's "suspicious movements in the Islamic suburbs".

Lebanon's police commander, Major-General Osman Osman, said there were no clues in the case, but admitted that the crew's movements around Shia Muslim strongholds were anything but prudent. "Their presence there was a mistake," he said.

Although it appears that the crew would not join the other French hostages as such, their abduction gave Islamic Jihad chances to emphasize previous warnings. "We give the French Government one week to recover our two comrades from the dungeons of the Iraqi regime," the caller said.

After the claim saying that M Seurat, a researcher aged 37, had been "executed", a second anonymous caller threatened that another French hostage would be killed if the two Iraqis, Fawzi Hamzeh and Hassan Kheirredine, were not returned to France. Both men were arrested and expelled along with several other suspects in a police anti-terrorist

drive on February 19, after a series of bombings in Paris.

As usual, it was impossible to authenticate yesterday's telephone call. But what puzzled many was that the Arabic-speaking man began it with a quotation from the Koran different from the already familiar saying — "in the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate" — which Islamic Jihad uses in every statement.

In the flurry of claims regarding the situation of the Frenchmen, one caller said on Saturday that the kidnappers were prepared to meet with Dr Razah Raad, a Lebanese-born French heart specialist who has sought, but failed to secure, the release of M Seurat and the other three French hostages in three visits he made to Beirut last year.

Yesterday's caller seemed to insist on that point when he said: "We emphasize that the dispatch of any other mediator than Raad will only complicate the problem."

Mystery also surrounded the mission of M Serge Boidevaix, the Deputy Secretary-General of the French Foreign Ministry, who was

expected to arrive in Beirut as part of the French effort to break the negotiations impasse and secure the release of the hostages. There was no explanation why M Boidevaix was not on board the Middle East Airlines jet from Paris that landed on Saturday.

Lebanese authorities greeted instead Monsignor Achille Silvestrini, the Vatican's "Foreign Minister", who arrived in Beirut on a different mission: to try to revive the stalemated talks to end Lebanon's decade-old civil war.

Mgr Silvestrini is expected to hold talks with President Gemayel of Lebanon and President Assad of Syria. But his arrival came amid discouraging signs. On Saturday a car loaded with explosives blew up near an office of Mr Gemayel's Phalange Party in the Christian eastern sector of the capital, killing five civilians.

● TEL AVIV: An Israeli soldier and two guerrillas were killed yesterday in a clash in Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon, a military spokesman said (Reuter reports).



Fire billowing from the wreckage caused by Saturday's car bomb which killed five people and injured 42 in the Christian Asrafieh neighbourhood of east Beirut.

Detainees freed from crowded Israel jail

From Ian Murray
Jerusalem

Some 50 people being held in detention for suspected anti-Israeli activities have to be released in the past days because prisons in occupied territories are running out of space.

There were about 200 arrests last week, after the assassination of the Mayor Nablus, of whom nearly 200 still being held, suspected links with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which claimed responsibility for the murder. Pressure on space became great as prisoners had to be housed in tents.

There have been more than 60 arrests in the Druze community in the annexed sector of the Golan Heights, a violent anti-Israeli demonstration during a visit by Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister.

At the weekend extra 500 were moved into this area to prevent demonstrations mark the Baathist rise to power in Syria.

Meanwhile, a significant increase in the number of demonstrations and attacks has been recorded since King Hussein of Jordan announced he was ending political operation with the PLO.

Delhi's despair over Tamil crisis

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

The scene for the diplomatic quarrel between India and Sri Lanka over the treatment of the Tamil population of the island republic shifted yesterday to Colombo, amid growing pessimism about the possibility of a solution to the crisis.

The Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, yesterday called on President Jayewardene to convey India's present anxieties and its assessment of the situation.

The President heard him patiently and, in response to a series of questions about the future of Indian shuttle-diplomacy — which have appeared in the press — told him that the invitation to visit Sri Lanka to the senior civil servant in the Indian External Affairs Ministry, Mr Romesh Bhandari, was still open.

"I interpret that to mean there was no major breakthrough," a diplomat said here last night.

In the meantime, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Delhi, Mr Bernard Tilakaratne, has also arrived in Colombo for further consultation.

India is beginning to be convinced that the Sri Lankan Government is not serious about wanting a political solution to the Tamil crisis, short of the Tamils' surrender.

New arms purchases and tactics have led the Sri Lankans to believe they can

win a military solution and that uncomfortable political concessions to the Tamils are therefore unnecessary.

In the Indian Parliament the Foreign Minister, Mr Balram Bhagat, appeared to be accusing the Sri Lankans of something like genocide and allowed himself to seem to say that he was giving them a month to sort themselves out.

The response from Colombo was a bitter Note, accusing the Indians of pandering to parochial and partisan concerns. The Note, couched in the most un diplomatic terms, virtually accused Mr Bhagat of being a fool, and sneered at India's own human rights record.

India's own Note in return, was calmly furious. "The Indian Government thought the Note hardly 'conducive to overcoming the ethnic crisis,'" and attacked the "totally unnecessary and callous killing of civilians and destruction of property."

The Indians felt "there is an attempt to find an alibi for the failure to engage in constructive negotiations."

In the meantime, the killing continues. It was reported yesterday that Tamil militants killed four Sri Lankan soldiers as they made their way by boat from Velvetithural to Point Pedro, in the waters off the Jaffna peninsula.

Another soldier was said to have been killed in the village of Thondamanaru, nearby.

Control of Teamsters is urged

From Christopher Thomas
New York

The Mafia's influence over the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, America's largest and arguably most politically influential union, is so pervasive that the White House should consider reorganizing union officers and placing union activities under court supervision, a presidential commission has recommended.

The scandal-ridden union, whose wealth and organizational muscle always play a key role in presidential and other big elections, has been firmly under the influence of organized crime since the 1950s, the report declares. "The systematic use of trusteeships by courts may be necessary to prevent organized crime from continuing to do business as usual," it says, although it falls short of recommending direct moves against the union leadership.

The report, which is being studied by the White House, was drawn up by the President's Commission on Organized Crime. It accuses Mr Jackie Presser, president of the Teamsters, of having an "extensive record of organized crime association".

It says that business transactions in which he earned more than \$1 million while a Teamsters' official in Cleveland, Ohio, in the 1970s — mainly involving investment in a theatre — were "highly suspect" and had been referred to the Justice Department.

The report also finds that organized crime exercises almost unflinching control over the New York-New Jersey waterfront, primarily through the International Longshoremen's Association (a trade union), and had heavily infiltrated hotel unions in both states.

Anti-poll rampage in Dhaka

From Ahmed Fazl
Dhaka

Demonstrators went on a rampage through Dhaka on Saturday in the latest protest against the military leadership's proposals for parliamentary elections next month.

Cars were damaged and the houses of government leaders attacked as a half-day general strike called by Opposition parties brought life to a standstill in the capital and 21 other Bangladesh towns.

Police rounded up more than 100 people in Dhaka during clashes in which at least three bombs were thrown at the official residence of the Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator, Admiral Sultan Ahmed.

The Information Minister, Mr Anwar Zahid, was attacked by students with bottles of acid in west Dhaka. At least 12 people were arrested during scuffles with police guards.

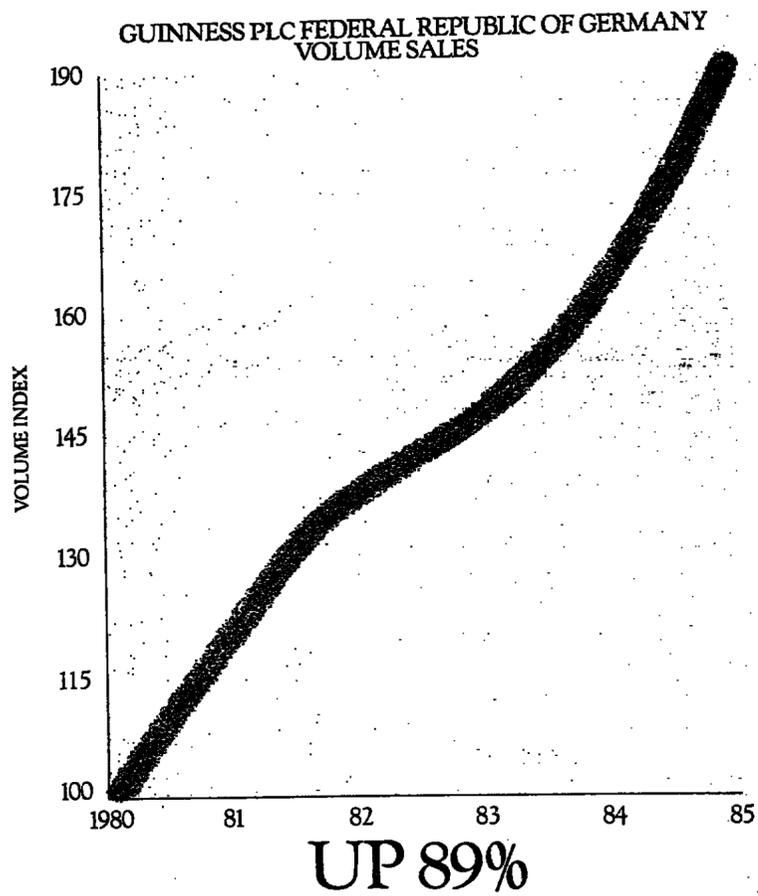
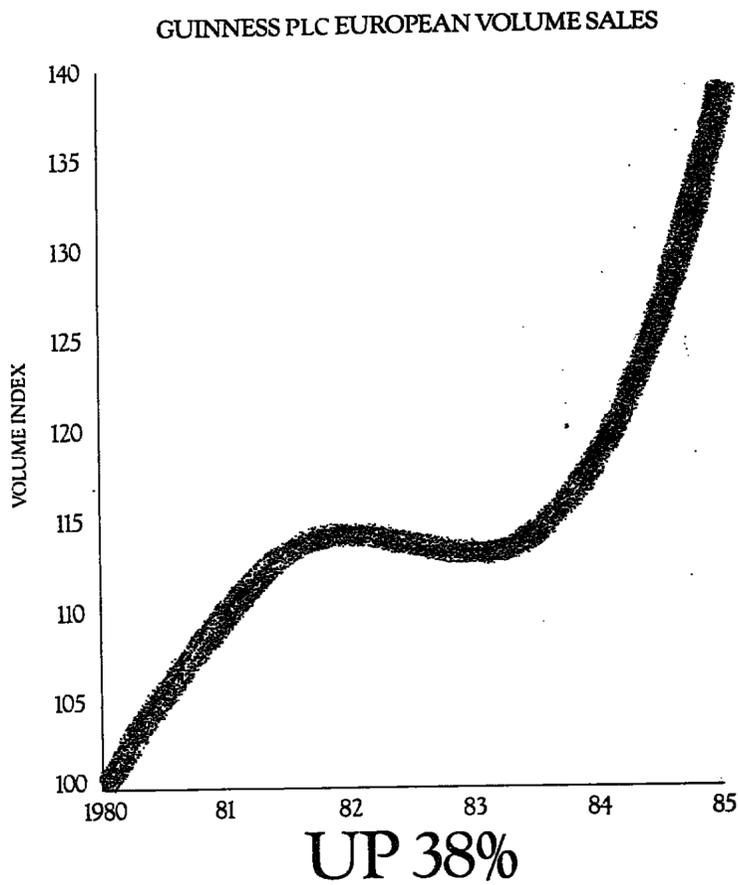
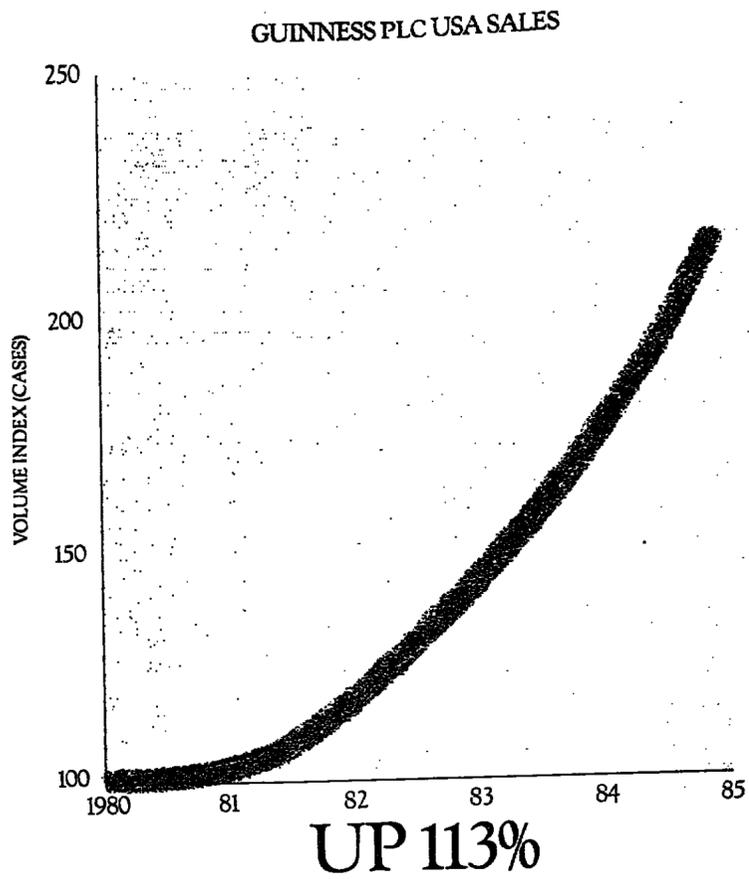
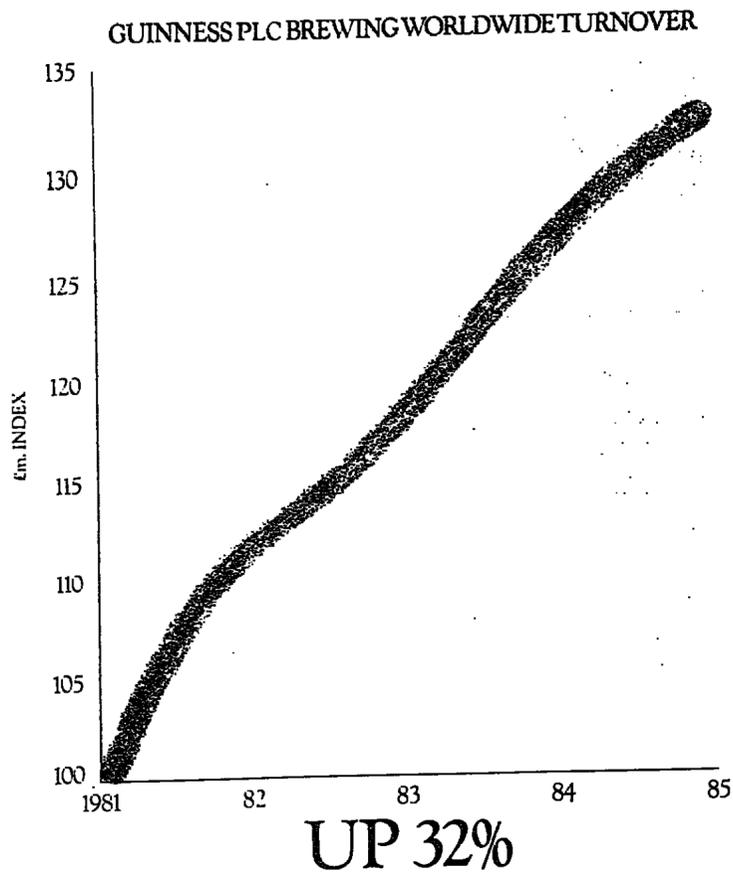
Shops, schools and factories remained shut and public transport was off the streets in response to a call by the 15-party and 7-party alliances and the fundamentalist Jamaat-Islami, who are objecting to the elections due to be held under martial law supervision on April 26.

Sheikh Hasina Wazed, leader of the 15-party alliance, said the strike was extremely successful. "I think people have rejected elections under martial law and endorsed the opposition stand for boycotting polls if the four-year-old military rule is not withdrawn first," she said.

Meanwhile, General Ershad, the military ruler, said yesterday that he would press ahead with the election timetable and would not be cowed by pressure from the Opposition for his resignation.

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Adelaide landing fails as royal barge buffeted in heavy sea

In high winds and heavy seas the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were forced to abandon a ceremonial landing from the royal yacht Britannia in South Australia yesterday as conditions threatened to dash their barge against the arrival jetty.

The disruption, causing delays of up to three hours in the royal programme, wreaked havoc on the opening round of engagements for this final leg of the royal visit to Australia—to attend celebrations marking the state's 150th anniversary.

In the process, the royal couple managed to miss the first demonstration of the Australian tour — by Irish republicans. But despite the demonstration officials and police were dismissive of reports that a special security operation was under way because of fears of an IRA attack on the Queen.

Britannia arrived off Adelaide from Melbourne around lunchtime. Because of the heavy seas the royal barge made a number of trial runs carrying officials to Glenelg jetty during which it became apparent that a landing would be a perilous affair.

Mr Michael Shea, the Queen's press secretary, said that in the face of a 20 knot wind and a four-foot swell he had nevertheless insisted that the landing be attempted.

As the royal barge pulled away from Britannia with the Queen and the Duke aboard it was swept against the side, shattering a section of wood-work.

The danger became even more obvious as it approached the jetty riding with the swell. It was then decided

From Stephen Taylor, Adelaide

to abandon landing. "The barge would have been wrecked," Mr Shea said.

At this stage the Queen raised her hands in a gesture of resignation to the reception group, which included Sir Donald Dunstan, the Governor, and Mr John Bannon, the state Premier, and the barge returned to Britannia.

The royal yacht then sailed to a more protected port about 10 miles to the north and the royal party was duly transferred ashore where the Queen remarked to laughter: "Now I appreciate what the early settlers must have felt trying to get ashore from open boats."

Meanwhile, a crowd had gathered about a mile from the Glenelg jetty for a ceremony which was to have got the South Australian celebrations off to an appropriate start.

Here, where the first group of English settlers had landed in 1836 and proclaimed the new colony, the Queen was to meet their descendants and plant a tree.

Half an hour before she was due to arrive, a welcoming group, some of them wearing period costume, were in position, unaware of the difficulties at the jetty.

So were the dozen or so demonstrators from a group calling itself "Australian Aid for Ireland" who joined the crowd. One demonstrator carried a coffin lid with a photograph and the legend "Bobby Sands, freedom fighter, murdered by British imperialism". Another had a picture of the Prince of Wales in military uniform and the slogan "Charles Windsor, honorary Derry butcher".

A spokesman said the group was affiliated to the republican movement and raised money for Irish prisoners, but was staging a peaceful protest which the police had been informed about.

Reports of an assassination attempt on the Queen were media sensationalism, he added. "The IRA has said it is not interested in extending its military campaign to Australia".

In the event, the royal couple missed the demonstrators as well as the traditional welcome, this ceremony being cancelled because of the two-hour delay in landing.

Reports in the Australian press yesterday claimed a major security operation had been launched, citing a memorandum from the Customs Service which said: "Counter terrorist measures are being put in place for the duration of the royal visit".

Federal police and security sources said, however, that no special provisions had been made for the royal visit and a report that one suspect had actually been taken into custody could not be confirmed.

Mr Shea said there was no question of changing the schedule in response to the report and that walkouts would proceed.



The Queen looks towards the Adelaide shore after bad weather at the weekend prevented the royal barge from landing at the Glenelg Jetty, delaying most of the scheduled events.

Gays may join Mounties Canada extends equality laws

From John Best, Ottawa

Canadian civil servants would no longer have to retire at the age of 65, and women would be given a wider role in the Canadian armed forces, under a new government programme.

The programme could open the way for homosexuals and lesbians to serve in the armed forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and would extend voting rights to the mentally disabled.

Mr John Crosbie, Minister of Justice, announced the sweeping changes in giving the Conservative Government's response to recommendations on equality put forward last year by a parliamentary committee.

They are designed to bring Canadian law into line with the charter of rights and freedoms proclaimed in 1982 as part of the new constitution.

The charter prohibits all discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

Mr Crosbie said the Government would act "immediately" to end mandatory retirement at 65 in the Civil Service.

The present rule, which applies to both women and

men, is also to be rescinded. The case of employees in businesses which come under federal government jurisdiction, such as banks and transport and communication companies.

More than a tenth of the Canadian workforce would be directly affected. But the overall effect could be much wider.

The minister sidestepped the question of whether women should be admitted to military combat roles: something that feminist groups have been campaigning for.

Probably the most sensitive part of Mr Crosbie's equality package was his pledge that the Government would make "sexual orientation" a prohibited ground of discrimination in areas of federal jurisdiction.

This runs directly counter to the long-established policy of both the armed forces and the national police to be homosexual and to dismiss them if they are discovered.

For their part, civil rights advocates said they would wait to see the fine print of the legislation before making an announcement.

The forces and the RCM may still argue for the right to exclude homosexuality on the ground that heterosexuality is an occupational requirement

Man of caution to lead left's unions

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The left-wing trade union movement here has a new leader in Signor Antonio Pizzinato, variously described by colleagues as being a bulldozer and as having a face fashioned by a hatchet, but with no known vices.

Most of his colleagues admit that the head of what is by far the biggest grouping in the country's trade union movement has so far played his cards very close to his chest. In this he is the opposite of his predecessor, Signor Luciano Lama, who left the leadership of CGIL, the Communist and Socialist confederation, last Tuesday after 16 years to work once more in the Communist Party.

Signor Lama was an emotional man and an orator of star quality. Signor Pizzinato is thin and lacklustre as an orator, but a man whose genuinely humble origins meant that he leant heavily in his earlier years on the union movement and the Communist Party to teach him enough to equip him as a labour leader.

Signor Pizzinato is expected to take time before he asserts himself because of his innate caution, and has the advantage of a clear offer of better

relations with the union from Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister.

Born 54 years ago near Pordenone in the north-east, Signor Pizzinato was the first of seven children of an impoverished family that moved to Milan in search of work.

He started as a factory apprentice and showed his desire to study by going to night school. He was chosen by the Communist Party to spend several years in the Soviet Union for courses in economics and sociology.

This experience won him the reputation in Italy of being a Stalinist, although he points out that his time in Russia coincided with Khrushchev's ascendancy. On his return, he led the labour movement in Sesto San Giovanni and, despite his dedication, his career moved slowly.

He went to Milan to become leader of the left-wing union movement there, and was its leader in Lombardy until July, 1984, when he joined the national secretariat.

He was elected unopposed last week, but Signor Lama is reported to have said of the election: "It was not the work of the Holy Spirit."

Opus Dei challenged in Italy

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian Government is facing a number of requests for an inquiry into the affairs of Opus Dei, the religious organization much favoured by the Pope, which has been accused of using secretive methods.

One of the strongest demands for action will come in a statement to be published today by Signor Rino Formica, leader of the Socialist Party group in the Chamber of Deputies.

He calls on ministers to ask all high officials in the public service to declare that they do not belong to secret societies. Then he wants the Socialist-led Government to "conduct a far-reaching inquiry into what this organization is".

At the same time the Communists and a group of left-wing independents have put down similar demands in written parliamentary questions.

Leaders of Opus Dei deny that it is a secret organization. Its British counterpart ran into similar accusations five years ago, when Cardinal Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, had to specify how Opus Dei should behave to make it acceptable in his diocese.

Its present troubles in Italy follow publication by the weekly news magazine L'Espresso of secrecy regulations said to have been part of the rule for members of Opus Dei.

Thais say Laos in drug trade

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Thailand has accused the Communist Government of neighbouring Laos of being actively involved in the production and trading of opium and heroin.

Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, the Thai national security chief, said it had become an important part of Laotian economic policy. He referred to a resolution passed at a recent meeting of the Communist Party which mentioned that the three principal exports were coffee, resin and opium.

Squadron Leader Prasong claimed that Laos was sending opium and heroin to Hanoi to help the Vietnamese economy, and that the Laotians were attempting to take advantage of the decline in production from the "Golden Triangle" caused by anti-drug campaigns in Thailand and Burma.

He said opium was being grown at state farms in Nam Tha, Udomchai, Luang Prabang, Xiengkhoang, and Sayaboury provinces.

Reports that the Laotian Government is directly engaged in the drugs trade have not been confirmed by the United States, whose drug enforcement agents collect intelligence in the area.

However, the State Department's annual report on narcotics, released last month, said opium production in Laos was now 30 to 100 tons a year.

14 new trucks in the last 6 years?

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Man of glass and steel

... or how Richard Rogers, the schoolboy who couldn't spell or draw, became Britain's most radical and renowned modern architect



In 1938 the five-year-old Richard Rogers suddenly left a life of aristocratic wealth in Italy for the drab surroundings of Bayswater in central London. As Italy had drifted towards war, his father, Nino, who held a British passport, decided to emigrate to England.

They arrived in the autumn. Nino had managed to smuggle out £800 but it was an emergency fund he would not touch. They moved into digs in Bayswater. Nino took Rogers to a local nursery school, attempting to teach him English as they walked back and forth, while Dada, his mother, walked to Notting Hill and Holland Park in an unhappy attempt to find views to match those they had left behind in Florence.

Finally they settled in Epsom and Rogers began his education at Kingswood House primary school. It was a disaster. On his first night he was beaten for using school towels to make a bed for his teddy bear. The beatings continued as he seemed unable to make the slightest progress with his academic work.

In fact he was severely dyslexic, a disability neither understood nor acknowledged at the time. He was assumed to be lazy and ineducable by all but his parents. They could not believe their son was anything but immensely talented. He was subjected to extra

tuition and finally to a crammer in Sutton. It was just about enough to push him through the common entrance exam and he won a place at St John's School, Leatherhead.

Once again, however, the English education system seemed to overwhelm him. One teacher told Dada and Nino that he could perhaps become a policeman in South Africa. Higher education was out of the question.

So, in 1951, Rogers began his National Service with little hope for the future. His first year was predictably disastrous. But miraculously in his second year he was posted to the British garrison at Trieste. He rediscovered Italy and, most important of all, he met Ernesto Rogers again, his father's cousin and one of Italy's most influential architects.

After a few visits to Ernesto's Milan studio he determined to become an architect. He returned to England in 1953 to start a preliminary course at Epsom Art College and won a place at the Architectural Association.

Again his education went wildly wrong. His written work was as bad as ever but, even more damaging, he could not draw. His attempts were frequently incom-

prehensible and he resorted to employing his girlfriend to draw his ideas for him. Again his teachers despaired.

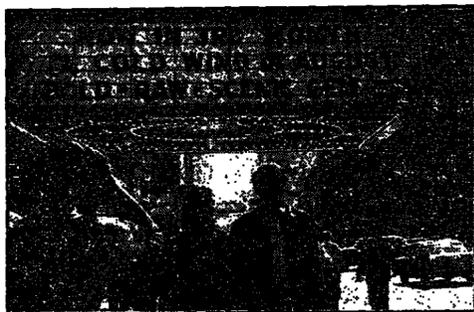
In his final year, however, something clicked. New, more sympathetic tutors began to glimpse an unusual talent beneath all the problems of technique. He left as a star pupil with the fifth-year prize for a scheme he had produced for a school for handicapped children in Wales.

For a year he worked unproductively for a local authority and then, with his new wife Su Brumwell, he left to take a one-year Masters course at Yale.

His architectural horizons suddenly expanded. He went on vast field trips to see all the houses of Frank Lloyd Wright and every American building by Mies van der Rohe. He came in contact with the American giants of the time like Louis Kahn and Paul Rudolph and, most important of all, he teamed up with Norman Foster.

By 1963 they were back in England and a practice was established consisting of Su and Rogers, Foster and two sisters, Wendy and Georgie Cheeseman, both former girlfriends of Rogers. The work rate was furious and a kind of insanity prevailed in their Hampstead office. Georgie left in dismay.

Their very first project — a row



of three houses in Murray Mews, Camden Town — nearly resulted in Rogers leaving the profession for good. They had employed the cheapest builder they could find and everything went wrong. One of the clients visited the site with Rogers and gestured at some material on the floor. "What do you think that that is?" he asked.

"A damp-proof course", said Rogers. The client picked the stuff up. It was newspaper painted black.

But with a house for his father-in-law, Marcus Brumwell, in Creek Veau, Cornwall, the team got into its stride. The house won an award.

Then they were asked to build

The winning design of the decade

Richard and Su Rogers was to continue as a practice in spite of the break up of the partners' marriage. They had three children but, by 1969, it had become clear that the marriage was over. Roger had fallen in love with Ruth Elias, an American graphic designer studying in London.

It was a model of a civilized separation. They continued to work together while, gradually, two homes were established — Ruth with Rogers and Su with the architect John Miller and the three boys.

By 1971 the practice had been joined by the Italian architect Tenzo Piano. They entered a competition for a new arts centre in Paris without the slightest hope of winning. Rogers was, in any case, violently opposed as he felt the job smacked of just the sort of establishment politics he most disliked.

Entries had to be posted no later than June 15 and, just before midnight on that day, one of the staff, Marco Goldschmid, was

dispatched to the all-night post office at Trafalgar Square to post the drawings, where they were rejected as too long. Goldschmid cut them down on the spot. They turned up at the office 36 hours later marked "insufficient postage". Goldschmid tore round to the post office and demanded a backdated post mark. They compromised and gave him a smudged one. Then the French lost all the English entries. "Forget it, sweetie, it's a loser", said Rogers to Ruth when she told him of the latest disaster. But the entries were discovered in a locked room soon afterwards.

A month later they received a phone call telling them they had been chosen from 681 entries from around the world to build the Pompidou Centre on the Beaubourg Plateau in Paris.

Rogers and Ruth went over that night and the next day Su and John Miller arrived in Paris. They had won the most important architectural commission of the decade with a design so radical that nobody even knew whether it could be built. For a weekend they were the heroes of Paris — meeting the President and being bitterly resented by the French profession who had assumed the prize would go to one of them.

But Su realized she could have no part in it. In the midst of the dashes from parties to press conferences to meetings she made up her mind. She resigned from the practice and returned to London with John Miller.

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BELOW: Family scene (from left) Ben, Rogers, Roo, Ab, Ruth and Zad in Paris



LEFT: Su with Rogers after their arrival in America for his year at Yale university

Rebuilding Italy in England

As the building of the Pompidou Centre came to an end in 1977, it became clear that Rogers had exhausted yet another partnership. Just as he had once found he could no longer work with Norman Foster, now the possibilities of cooperation with Piano seemed to have vanished.

But the Pompidou Centre had proved such an extraordinary building with its vast steel structure and exposed air-conditioning ducts that nobody seemed to think of employing Rogers to build anything else.

But with Rogers once again about to give up architecture in favour of teaching and his partner, John Young, considering becoming a mini-cab driver, they went against all the odds, the competition for the new Lloyd's building in London.

It was a commission of staggering scale — its final cost was to be

£170m and it was to become the biggest private sector construction project in Britain.

It was a brave step for an institution like Lloyd's and doubts about the scheme were to emerge continually over the years of the project. Everybody assumed the lifts Rogers designed for the exterior of the building would leak until John Young took Lloyd's men to the Saint Francis Hotel in San Francisco where there were similar lifts.

They even grew suspicious that it was taking so long to build — American blocks went up in half the time. But as one American speculative builder commented when he was shown the plans: "Dat ain't building, dat's ...ing architecture."

But Sir Peter Green and Courtenay Blackmore of Lloyd's never wavered and Rogers got the building he wanted. It is an image of circulation, of movement and of city life. It contrasts sharply with the grey, closed world of England in 1938. But it matches precisely the shining, living, public world he had known before. He had rebuilt Italy.

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Richard Rogers: a biography by Bryan Appleyard is published on March 17 by Faber & Faber at £9.95.

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Fighter who came down from the hills

It is not often that guerrilla commanders are invited to Downing Street for a chat with the Prime Minister. Mrs Thatcher has an aversion to the use of violence for political aims which is why her ministers keep their distance from the African National Congress and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

But Abdul Haq is different. He is an Afghan resistance fighter in the tradition of the French *maquis* who is struggling to liberate his country from an invasion force of almost 120,000 Soviet troops. Although the men under Haq's command may sometimes use brutal tactics — such as assassinations, sabotage or bombs in airports — they are fighting a ruthless enemy who has killed tens, possibly, hundreds of thousands of Afghans with bombs, bullets, rockets and napalm.

Haq, a member of the *Hezbi Islami* guerrilla faction, leads about 3,000 men operating around Kabul. His last major offensive, just after Christmas, was to coincide with the sixth anniversary of the Soviet invasion.

Militarily the operation was of questionable value, but it was a major propaganda success. "We hit the airport. We hit the Soviet embassy and

some people were killed. We hit the Soviet army headquarters in the Afghan defence ministry and we set off bombs in government buildings", Haq said over tea in a luxury London hotel.

He explained that although the *mujahideen*, as the Afghan guerrillas are known, control most of the countryside, "we must show the Russians and their followers that they are not secure even in the capital".

Haq, aged 28, has been fighting since he was 16, years before the Soviet invasion in 1979. He first took up arms against the government of President Mohammad Daoud, whom he felt was too pro-Communist and who allowed the Russians to establish a foothold in Afghanistan.

After participating in four attempts to overthrow the Daoud regime he was arrested and sentenced to death, but was spared because he was under 18. When Daoud was overthrown, Haq's family managed to secure his release in the time-honoured fashion by bribing the new authorities with the equivalent of £3,000. Haq joined his way to Pakistan, joined the *mujahideen* and has been fighting ever since, mainly around Kabul and Nangarhar.

Haq, broad-chested and bearded, looks the classic Hollywood image of a guerrilla leader. But his eyes, despite a ready smile, reveal the



Rebel with a cause: Abdul Haq, fighting since the age of 16. "This war has a long future"

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- 22 Mid-arm (5)
- 23 Wool fat (7)
- 24 Perpendicular (5)

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- 15 Helix (6)
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Bossed

THE THINGS CHANGE

In an exclusive interview, Princess Michael talks about style, design and fashion

A taste for the royal life

As the international collections open in Milan, Princess Michael tells Suzy Menkes about her passion for the sharp-edged, sleek Italian style

Princess Michael of Kent says: "I am a very tall girl. God made me very tall and gave me big bones. And I am not going to go around all my life crying about it."

"My ideas on fashion are within the framework of my life. They are not a philosophy for everyone," she announced when I talked to her at Kensington Palace last week.

"Just as I look at a house and deal with the problem of covering the windows, so for myself I do an exterior job on the skeleton I have been given."

The Princess is interested in interior design, worked in it professionally before her marriage and has just taken on a role as art buyer for a London gallery.

She uses design metaphors: her outfits must be in proportion like the pelmet to her curtains, she chooses both clothes and the glazes for the drawing room walls to last.

"Give me a monstrous Victorian house and I think I can turn it into a thing of beauty," she says. "When I have a problem I know how I can deal with it in design."

"I am in my head a designer manqué," she explains. "Shapes interest me. To dress a sofa is the same challenge as dressing a lady. It is quite a logical progression."

The sofa is pale buff and the lady dresses, on this first day of spring, in primrose yellow - a pleated skirt and bow-neck sweater, a pearl and diamond choker and a catkin frizz of blond hair around her shoulders.

"I live in the eighteenth century in my mind," says Princess Michael. "I see my whole life as a cultivation of taste. If I were asked what is the objective of my life - leaving apart my husband and my children - I would say it was to improve the quality of my life, intellectually, culturally and in the way I choose to live."

That life is played out in the private apartments at the back of the Kensington Royal compound and in the country in Gloucestershire, where Princess Michael says that she enjoys riding and being with her children, Frederick and Ella. She is also passionate about gardening. She is not, she says, obsessed with fashion, or interested in where hems are or what colour is "in".

"I want a harmonious feeling. I don't want people to say 'what lovely curtains', but 'what a lovely feeling my hostess has created in this room'. They mustn't say 'she was wearing a wonderful coat or hat', but that 'she looked wonderful'."



Prince and Princess Michael: "The best-dressed man in England in his style"

"They" are, of course, the public. Princess Michael does not have an official role in the Royal Family, nor public funds to dictate that she should buy British, as she firmly states.

"I have nothing against British clothes, but I am a foreign person and I have a foreign shape," she says. "I am also not a hypocrite. I wear fur if the animal is bred - and bred is important - to keep me warm in sub-zero temperatures. I also chase foxes on horses. And I don't believe in buying British if British isn't good enough."

Other members of the Royal Family may wear mink, hunt and have a Hanoverian bosom. But ever since Lord Melbourne told a frustrated young Queen Victoria that she was obliged to dress British, and particularly since the arrival of the stylish young Princess of Wales, the Royal Family has conspicuously dressed British - at least in public.

So does Princess Michael. She cites the Emancipator ("and I was the first in the family to find them"), Victor Edelstein and Jan Van Veldan as personal favourites. She admires the grace and imagination of Patricia Lester. She has occasionally worn Bruce Oldfield. "But I consider them all to be dressmakers," she says. "This is not going to win me any friends, but there is a difference between couture and designer clothes. The British clothes are attractive, but they are meant to have a temporary life."

It is a far cry from Audrey Hepburn's cast-off haute couture dresses, which the young Marie-Christine von Reibnitz inherited and let out for herself, unpicking four interlinings of silk organza, learning exacting standards in the process.

She exempts Jean Muir from her polite but firm comments about the standards of British make. "For my opinion - although not for my own taste - she is the greatest designer in this country. She is totally at home with shape, structure

I am 41 years old. If I am not sure by now of my own taste pity help me!

and seaming." The Princess wears for many official occasions, Hardy Amies. "He makes better women's tailoring on coats and jackets than you can get out of the young designers." But her fashion heart has gone out to Gianfranco Ferré, the shy, perfectionist Italian designer, whose clothes she buys from his London boutique. Ferré, who was trained as an architect, makes spare, simple clothes in luxurious materials.

"If I had to say a designer whose clothes I am most comfortable in, it is Ferré. He is an architect and I understand his designs," she says. Princess Michael looks striking in Ferré's sculptural red jacket. ("The first time I have worn red. My preferred colours are usually shades of grey.") She looks much less than her 41 years in a curvy sweater embroidered in gold at its neck, or in a column of black silk with a deep sweep of embroidery at the back.

She wore that last autumn to the London show of Gianni Versace, whose clothes she also admires. She likes, she



Princess Michael of Kent wearing her favourite Ferré sweater with gilded embroidery

says, the slick, modern sharp edge of Italian design. Whilst English clothes are about colour and detail, Italian clothes are about "line". She admires too the rangy, sporty quality of American designers who also seem sympathetic to her large frame.

Princess Michael speaks of the discreet charm of the shoulder pad in changing the female silhouette.

"You can be fragile with large shoulders," she says. "I am very keen on femininity, even though I am six foot and have large bones."

Princess Michael enthusiastically supports her Italian image, and considers it the most successful of the styles she has created. He appreciated, says the Princess, an earlier image of small waisted crinoline ball gowns. ("If I had been around when Dior created the New Look, that would have been right for me," she says.)

"My husband's reactions interest me. I always show him new clothes. I think he

is the best dressed man in England in his style. He inherited it from his own father. The late Duke of Kent designed a lot of things. He was the only one of Queen Mary's children who had a love of beautiful objects. He was really the creator of Princess Marina's style. When she arrived in England she was decidedly dowdy. It was under his guidance that she became a fashion Princess."

Her husband approves of Princess Michael's Italian clothes, and they form the kernel of her wardrobe. "But I don't want to be disloyal to English designers. I shall continue to wear English clothes," she says.

Old clothes are retired to the country, where she wears "jeans, comfy jerseys and lots of shirts" as well as the khaki fatigues that she acquired on her late father's farm in Africa.

Princess Michael's role as a latter-day Princess Marina has been affected by the arrival in the family of "a dazzlingly

beautiful teenager", who broke the fashion mould set in the 1950s and had glazes by royal mothers-in-law.

The hat that Princess Michael wore to the royal wedding was copied from a photograph of Princess Marina, whose serene elegance is framed in silver round the drawing room. But Princess Michael has struggled on her own, with no family guidance, to create an image. There are a few Hungarian relatives, she says, "running around" dressed in her mistakes.

"It took me a long time to discover my look and my style," she says. "I think I now have it in my houses and my clothes. I am 41 years old. If I am not sure by now of my own taste, pity help me!"

TOMORROW

Suzy Menkes on how the Italian collections are returning to form and fit

Bossed about, blissfully

The other weekend, I went to Chester to watch the televising of one of Granada's series of Hypotheticals. These are programmes where a panel of experts is asked to make weighty decisions about serious social issues - in this case, AIDS.

This would not have been a very humorous scenario had it not been for the programme's moderator, Professor Arthur Miller of the Harvard Law School. Although Professor Miller grew up in Brooklyn and now lives in Boston, he is pure Hollywood, from the top of his burnished grey head to the tips of his twinkling toe-caps. Think of Walter Matthau crossed with Gene Kelly with just a touch of John Travolta and you will have the professor to the life.

Even when engaged in some heavy-going questioning of doctors as to whether they would tell the wife of a patient who had AIDS that she might be at risk, the professor had such an aura of Tinsel Town that, at any moment, I expected him to leap on to the leather-topped table and execute a tap dance among the water-carafes and jotted pads. It made for a gripping programme, which will be on in a

PENNY PERRICK



living-room near you in May. It was refreshing to get out of the studio (the ballroom of Chester's Grosvenor Hotel, in fact), where Professor Miller was producing moral dilemmas as fast as a conjurer snatches streams of coloured handkerchiefs out of thin air, into the rest of the hotel where no dilemmas, moral or otherwise, had to be faced. Granada had so organized things that one was told what to do and where to go from dawn to dusk. It did not

escape my notice that this turned out to be bliss not only for me, whose middle name is indecisiveness, but for all the doctors, lawyers and politicians who had recently been sounding off on civil liberties and the role of the media in the hotel ballroom.

Everyone, including George Gale, pundit from the Daily Express, and Dr John Havard, the head of the British Medical Association, loved being hustled on to a coach to visit the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight, bustled back on again and given a delicious dinner without having to go through the anxiety-ridden business of selecting it from a menu.

Yet, according to a recent American Express survey, these are the very people who smoothly decline to go on package-deal holidays and, presumably, insist on seeing to all the arrangements themselves, including making the bookings for the wrong car ferry and ordering something disgusting for lunch in Madrid because they are too proud to admit that they are not familiar with the Spanish for pig's cheeks.

It does seem odd that the decision-making classes, whose holiday priority should be the chance to behave like a spaced-out zombie, put value for money first while those who spend their working lives being bossed about toss their money about buying more bossiness from couriers and redoubts and tour operators. The British professional classes have a compulsive need to be in charge of their every arrangement.

This refusal to pay for other people to take the tedium out of life means that we will never get the services that other nations take for granted. A New York businesswoman

in search of a new wardrobe has only to ring up a department store to have a fashion co-ordinator scumle around selecting everything she needs down to tights and knickers, so that the only decision she has to make is which credit card to use to pay for it all.

British working women would never take to it. Unless they spend half of Saturday trekking around Oxford Street until they are half-dead with exhaustion and the frustration of finding that the only suit in the colour that brings out their eyes is not available in their size, they feel that they are not doing their bit.

This is nothing but arrogance. We would all have a much better time if we realized that the sweetest words in the language come from the lips of someone else saying, "I'll take care of that. Just leave it to me."

Calvin Klein has called his newest perfume Obsession because, says Robin R. Burns, the president of the Calvin Klein Cosmetics Corporation: "Today women are obsessed. They're obsessed with diets, obsessed with careers, obsessed with equality, obsessed with marriages, obsessed with bringing up their children."

Now what Miss Burns says may be true, but I thought that scent wasn't meant to represent real life but to give women a chance to buy a fragrant fantasy. Hence names like "L'Amour, L'Amour", "Rive Gauche" and Estée Lauder's new perfume, "Beautiful". Those whose lives are grimly driven may not like to be reminded of the fact every time they catch a whiff of "Obsession". I wish someone would invent a perfume just for us, called "Calm Down" or "Stay Cool" or even "Survival".

The birth pains of a career

Going back to work after having a baby is not always easy. Apart from the emotional issues - the guilt many mothers feel about leaving their child - there are the practical problems of making arrangements for childcare. As a result, many women who could return to work do not do so.

A study carried out in 1979 by the Policy Studies Institute for the Department of Employment found that although one in two women had the right to go back to work after maternity leave, only one in 10 did so, and, of these, only a third returned to the same job, working the same hours.

But a more recent report, by Incomes Data Services, says there are signs that the situation is changing. A survey of office staff by Alfred Marks, for instance, showed that 15.5 per cent of women returned to work after maternity leave in 1983, and by 1985 the figure had jumped to 31 per cent.

Even so, the working mother can feel beleaguered and isolated and that is one reason why the Working Mothers Association was formed last year. Hilary Kammer, a full-time lecturer in English, who has three children, Gabriel, 6, Joshua, 3, and Raphael, 2, is the chairwoman.

She says: "One of our aims is to provide moral support and information to women, particularly in that crucial period just before they go back to work. That can be a very agonising time, especially when you are trying to find someone else to care for your child."

The association has just published a comprehensive guide to help women juggle the demands of a family and a paid job. The Working Mothers Handbook covers all the

Lee Rodwell reports on a group that helps mothers to juggle the demands of a young family and a return to work

childcare alternatives - from nurseries and nannies to creches and childminders - giving an idea of relative costs and helping women make the best choice for them and their child.

The association also aims to promote the interests and welfare of children of working mothers and plans to campaign on issues affecting these groups, including the provision of childcare facilities.

It grew out of an expanding network of local working mothers' groups - many of them part of, or developed from, existing National Childbirth Trust groups. At present there are more than 30 of these groups, which offer support at a local level.

Any mother who is working, studying or planning to return to work after taking time off to have children, can join the association. Membership costs £3 a year and members get a quarterly newsletter. Working mothers can be put in touch with their nearest group or be given information on how to set up their own.

The newsletter has suggestions on how to cope with school age children, covers the formalities (things like a written conditions of service, tax and national insurance) and includes personal accounts from some working mothers.

These dispatches from the front line illustrate quite well both the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of care.

Marion Cooper, a researcher and writer with a two-year-old son and another baby

work and motherhood can be balanced.

She says: "If we pool our information, then mothers can go to their employers and suggest returning to work in a different way, armed with the knowledge that other women have negotiated these kind of deals and made them work. It is possible. A lot of employers are waking up to the fact that if women don't return to work after having a baby, they are losing a valuable resource. To a certain extent we are pushing on an open door."

The Working Mothers Handbook, price £2 inc p&p, is available from the Working Mothers Association, c/o 167, Penton Road, London SW8.

For details about the association or membership please write (with s&c) to: The Working Mothers Association, 7, Spencer Walk, Putney, London SW15 1PL.

Advertisement for Jamaica. Text: "The temperature in Cornwall today is 82° F". "JAMAICA". "Montego Bay is in Cornwall, Jamaica. And right now it's warmer than Cornwall, England." "For the Jamaica Information Pack, write to: Jamaica Tourist Board, 50 St. James's St. London SW1A 1JT. (01-494 1707)." Includes a small illustration of a tropical scene.

Advertisement for IMPS (Inhalant Mouthpiece Spray). Text: "SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE". "All that's new about IMPS is the handy pack. They're still a great way to clear the throat and tackle the tickle." "Available from Chemists and good stores everywhere. They are free from alcohol sugar. Add from only 25p you'll get plenty of Orange Arzation of Oronon, Devon." "ORIGINAL IMPS. FOR A CLEAR VOICE AND THROAT."

THE TIMES DIARY

Gallery gauntlet

Princess Michael of Kent is heading for yet another unpleasant controversy: the art establishment is privately accusing her of a conflict of interest as both a trustee of the Victoria and Albert and now a director of the MacConal-Mason commercial art gallery.

Grounded

The aviation magazine Fly Past is offering readers the "flight of a lifetime" as the prize in a competition to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Spitfire.

No Sir

A knighthood was mooted for Today proprietor Eddy Shah after the Warrington dispute, I learn. But he made it known he would refuse before Downing Street could make an official approach.

Intactless

The current Marketing Week announces with great flourish the star chosen to launch the ProSport range of healthcare products: Bryan Robson, captain of Manchester United and England.

Gorbimey

Ned Sherrin has just received a fan letter congratulating him on his searching Radio 4 interview with "Gorby Dahl".

BARRY FANTONI



'Not only was he armed, he insisted I give him the compensation'

Double vision

If Central TV is ever offered an award by the Royal Television Society, I trust it will refuse. In a letter passed to me, Bob Southgate, Central's controller of news and current affairs, denounces the RTS awards as "a nonsense".

PHS

Over BL, the government is now in a no-win position. Whatever the outcome, its industrial strategy has been undermined, whatever action it takes, marginal seats are in danger.

BL's own problems today stem from its failures 20 years ago: the problems it is causing the government are the result of its successes over the past seven years.

But Edwardes succeeded. The BL workforce has done everything that could reasonably be expected of it. As the memory of Red Robbo fades, productivity per man today is three times higher than in 1979.

Austin Rover produces 450,000 cars a year; it has 17 per cent of the domestic market and 4 per cent of the European.

Richard Wigg on the tricky manoeuvring in Spain's referendum

Madrid After less than a decade of democracy, Spain has involved itself in what has always been the most slippery way of consulting the people, a referendum.

The Nato debate has grown into a big factor in the battle for power and an occasion for displaying not high democratic principles but political chicanery on both sides.

The campaign has shown how easy it is in Spain to assemble a No vote with almost no party machinery, thanks to deep-rooted Spanish neutralism, memories of the Civil War, and anti-militarism and anti-Realism among the young.

A peace movement has mushroomed, led by pacifists, left-wing intellectuals and artists, helped out by the Communists. The polls showed that the peace movement has appealed to voters at all educational levels.

For the past five weeks a drama of almost Jacobean proportions has been played out over the future of Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician at the London Hospital who has been suspended for almost a year for alleged professional incompetence.

In a former health authority council chamber in Hackney, allegations of intrigue, conspiracy, and incompetence have been thrown about in terms that the public rarely expects to be heard when one doctor is talking of another.

Her accusers have presented her as an ill-tempered, arrogant, aggressive crusader, whose belief in admirable principles was pushed so far that it put at risk the lives of mothers and babies alike.

BL: one-way street to a Tory crash

by Bruce Anderson

investment in new models. Even the government's critics are not advocating that.

Land Rover has been described as the jewel in BL's crown. If so, it is a paste jewel in a paper crown.

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in great secrecy. On the government side only the Prime Minister, the Chancellor, Leon Brittan (then Industry Secretary), Peter Morrison, his deputy in charge of BL, Sir Brian Hayes, the DTT's permanent secretary, and a few other officials knew what was happening.

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the sale of Land Rover would cause trouble. It has MPs have been inundated with letters, most of which read something like this: "As someone who has voted Conservative at every election since 1945, who has canvassed regularly and contributed unflinchingly, as someone, indeed, who regards himself as being on the right of the party, let me tell you that if Land Rover is sold to the Americans I will never vote Tory again."

So what is likely to happen? The government has still not given up hope of selling Land Rover to GM, although it would insist on guarantees on local content and British-based research and development.

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Labour spurred, let Labour pay

Anne Sofer

I find myself in agreement with Eric Hoffer, Derek Hutton and various other people who argue that the Labour Party should pay the surcharges imposed on the Lambeth and Liverpool councillors, or ex-councillors as we must now call them.

I say this not out of any sense of solidarity with their actions (which in my view were stupid, irresponsible and short-sighted), nor out of a wish to deplete Labour Party funds, although I know I shall be accused of that.

The Labour Party must not be allowed to get away with the pretence that what the Lambeth and Liverpool councillors did was a regrettable escapade by a few maverick left-wingers, some of them now facing expulsion from the party.

And behind each one of the councillors there are hundreds of ordinary Labour Party members who voted, at ward and constituency meetings, to adopt this particular strategy against rate-capping and who passed stirring and defiant motions to that effect "mandating" their representatives to vote accordingly.

As for the thousands of trade union members whose delegates were vigorously engaged in applying the same sort of pressure, perhaps they can be excused from any personal moral liability since it is unlikely they knew what was being said in their name.

I remember an occasion five years ago when a group of delegates from the public sector unions were exhorting Labour councillors to pursue a course of action which would almost certainly, as conceded by all present, lead to a surcharge bill of several million pounds.

When the Socialists came to power, they decided to keep the referendum pledge alive in order to help Spain's negotiations for entry into the EEC.

Chapter One "Would you like to see the menu now to choose your dessert?" said Gregorio to the pair dining by the window.

"Oh, yes, please," said the girl, Gregorio smiled at her, first in Italian and then in English.

Gregorio thought about it. Well, why not? He nodded. "Do you play football?" Mr Parfitt asked.

Chapter Two "So you're Gregorio, our mystery striker, eh?" said the man with ginger hair.

Nicholas Timmins Social services correspondent

union branches. It was official Labour policy. The party conference in October 1984 passed a local government resolution which not only "sainted Liverpool's stand" (Liverpool's stance that year having been to delay setting a rate and so put pressure on the government), but also "supported councils which are forced to break the law as a result of Tory policy".

Nor was even that the full extent of party support. In January 1985 while the leaders of all the rate-capped councils were meeting to plan their strategy, the Labour Party's NEC passed a motion congratulating "those local authorities which have come together to combat central government attempts to withdraw democratic and locally determined provision of services and jobs", and supporting "the decisions taken by those authorities to reject the grant assessment and allocation announced by the government".

Many people must be wondering now how they could have been so foolish to believe these tactics would work. I am not referring to the councillors themselves, who were caught up in a zealous frenzy, but to journalists and political commentators. Quite a few believed there was a better than average chance that many councils would refuse to set a rate, would run out of money, would bring services to a standstill, and would thus force the government to respond.

What the poor fall-guys must find more galling than anything else is that the whole exercise has turned out to be wholly unnecessary. None of the councils concerned has suffered the municipal *Gottterdammerung* we were so frequently promised.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.



'No' becomes 'si' in a topsy-turvy fight for votes

Spanish people "pronounce on our membership of Nato". As for Gonzalez, he thought Fraga would not continue with his brinkmanship and order a boycott.

When Fraga came out with his call for a boycott, with the aim of inflicting maximum political damage on Gonzalez, it took a straight-talking woman in his party to dare to condemn his strategy.

Reading too much into Savage

The inquiry has none the less raised important issues. It has brought to the fore once again the continuing debate on how childbirth should be handled, how far women should have a say in their care, how soon and how far obstetricians should intervene.

For the longer term, it has raised important issues about how professional differences should be reconciled and how incompetent doctors should be disciplined.

refendum campaign has been nothing like any general election we have fought, when other parties' supporters helped us win power for the first time in almost 50 years.

When Fraga came out with his call for a boycott, with the aim of inflicting maximum political damage on Gonzalez, it took a straight-talking woman in his party to dare to condemn his strategy.

Nato membership is too serious a matter for party politics, she said, and announced she would be voting Yes. "I had to say this publicly because I believe many ordinary people are being deceived," she told me, emphasizing her duty to her rural constituents.

public persona as a radical obstetrician, is not on the extreme end of "natural childbirth" obstetric care.

She told the inquiry that one of the difficulties of practising at the Mile End site of the London Hospital was that it was hard to obtain epidural anaesthesia - and if anything is a high-tech intervention into the "natural" pain of childbirth, epidural anaesthesia is.

The debate about obstetric care is a crucial one, and clearly underlies the case. But win or lose, Mrs Savage's supporters and her opponents will do women and obstetrics a disservice if they maintain that an ugly clash of personalities and an adversarial inquiry, in which the only winners are the lawyers, should help settle the future practice of obstetrics in Britain.

moreover... Miles Kington

Scusi, signor, fish is offside

The two leisure pursuits which seem most to fascinate the public these days are sport and restaurant-going; if it isn't a British boxer or batsman in the news it's a British chef or cookery writer.

Chapter One "Would you like to see the menu now to choose your dessert?" said Gregorio to the pair dining by the window.

"Oh, yes, please," said the girl, Gregorio smiled at her, first in Italian and then in English.

Chapter Two "So you're Gregorio, our mystery striker, eh?" said the man with ginger hair.

Chapter Three "At the final whistle it was 1-1, replay Thursday, and Gregorio was limping in three different languages."

Chapter Four "So you're Gregorio, our mystery striker, eh?" said the man with ginger hair.

going to call you Greg, OK? Gregorio nodded. It suit him fine, what the difference? he thought in English.

Gregorio nodded, in French. It made a change. Right from the kick-off, he saw what Ginger meant. The ball went to Jean-Claude, the under-sommerelier, who juggled with it elegantly before being cut down cruelly from behind by a big bloke with Smithfield sideburns.

After ten minutes, the ball ran free to Gregorio. He cut infield, passed two men like a water carrier, carrying four bowls of soup, and shot. Goal!

"That's great, Greg!" grinned Ginger. "By the way, the trout is fennel at lunch-time, so it's terrific. What did they put in it?"

"Is a touch of dill, plus a drop of Pernod, not to mention smoked bacon," explained Gregorio. "First you melt the bacon..."

Chapter Five "At the final whistle it was 1-1, replay Thursday, and Gregorio was limping in three different languages."



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9DD Telephone: 01-481 4100

TOO MANY RUSSIANS AT UN

The United States' decision to order a cut of nearly 40 per cent in the size of the Soviet Union's missions to the United Nations, could have an effect upon East-West relations - more fundamental than that of the usual cut-and-thrust between the superpowers. As mutual recriminations flew between Moscow and Washington yesterday, the prospect of a Reagan-Gorbachov summit this year, let alone in June, was clouded by doubt. The questions which must be asked therefore are why - and why now?

The size of the Soviet team in New York has long looked excessive. At 275 it is more than double that of the Americans (126) and the Chinese (116) and nearly seven times the modest 40 retained there by Britain. The Russians might argue that the People's Republic of China, for all its size, makes for an unfair comparison. As for the United States, the other indisputable superpower, it has the advantage of being able to fly up State Department "extras" on the shuttle from Washington at virtually eleven-hour notice. The Russians, far from home, have to cover a wider range of options.

As an argument it is hardly convincing. It has certainly convinced no-one yet, and the burgeoning bulk of the Soviet missions (including delegations from the Ukraine and Byelorussia) has long been a matter for comment. Western UN officials have prided themselves on being able to pick out which are Soviet spies on the UN committees, by the superior cut of their suits or the quality of their American English. Here as elsewhere it

has always been assumed that around half or more of the Soviet team have been there for reasons other than diplomacy.

If the United States has been able to confirm these suspicions and has proof of illegal activities by those masquerading under the UN flag, it is of course justified in acting. Britain has not hesitated to expel Russian officials from the well-staffed embassy in Kensington, for espionage - however hard the Government might have been trying to improve its relations with Moscow at the time. American security agents have long monitored the activities of Soviet officials at the UN (and with particular vigour since the Walker spy case) and one must assume that Washington feels it is now sure enough of its facts to act incisively. The United States is in the unique position of playing host to the UN - whose officials are now said to be studying the implications of the US action for the organization and its charter. But if evidence can be brought of spying, it would be hard for the UN to condemn the Washington move.

But why now? The official explanation is that the evidence had been gathered by last Autumn, but Washington stayed its hand for fear of spoiling the Geneva summit in November. As it was, they had only two months before announced further travel restrictions on Russians working as international officials in the UN secretariat (Soviet UN diplomats were already restricted to moving within a 25-mile radius of New York). To follow that by an announce-

ment of this kind would have certainly chilled the fireside chat of the two world leaders in their villa beside Lake Lemana.

As it is, the announcement would seem to rule out the prospects for a second summit in June. This was the preferred White House date, but has looked increasingly unlikely for some time. The Russians have always wanted one in the Autumn, and Mr Gorbachov during the Soviet party congress implied that there might not be one at all in the absence of real progress in the arms talks at Geneva. The timing of this latest upset might be seen as the response of an irritated White House - signalling that there are limits to how far it will go to ensure seeing Mr Gorbachov step on to the tarmac at Washington this fall. The withdrawal of the 105 unwanted Soviet officials at the UN (it will still leave them with the biggest mission) is due to take place over 18 months from October, the Russians probably leaving one by one as they come to the end of their postings. Coming as it does though, after a series of recent clashes between Washington and Moscow, could this now cast a planning blight over the Autumn?

The answer to this depends very much upon Soviet reactions. In the past Moscow has reacted angrily - and even retaliated - after the expulsion of Russian diplomats from Western capitals. But the exchange has usually been short and sharp. It remains to be seen whether this latest row, because of its timing and its involvement of the UN, will do more lasting damage.

FALKLANDS FACTORS

Nearly four years since Argentine forces invaded the Falkland Islands, 3,000 British troops remain on alert in the South Atlantic in case they should try it again: it is true that the Government, caught napping once, would not relish being ambushed again. It is equally true that Argentina has never formally declared an end to hostilities - as Whitehall is fond of recalling. But the threat, from a Buenos Aires regime which is opposed to the use of force to attain its objective of sovereignty over the islands, is more apparent than real - and not very apparent at that.

Sceptics argue that the government in Argentina might change - and do so for the worse. So it might. But there are few signs that it will in the foreseeable future, and if there were - then the presence of British troops on the Falklands would be more likely to promote that contingency than prevent it. Moreover the opening of the main runway at the new Mount Pleasant airport last May, has enabled the rapid reinforcement of the garrison there in an emergency. The number of troops could be reduced to the level necessary to protect the airport and keep it open for the additional battalions to arrive. It must be hoped that progress will be made towards this in the Summer - before waiting for the completion of the Mount Pleasant complex next year.

The 150-mile protection zone around the islands could be removed for similar reasons permitting another frigate to return. This would ease the ship management problems of a hard-pressed fleet. The tri-service cost of maintaining the garrison at its present level is around £370m a year. This has to be seen in the context of a total defence budget of more than £18bn, and withdrawal of

troops to this country would not bring anyway a straight return in cash. But just as the exclusion zone is resented in Buenos Aires, so the drain on the British exchequer will come to be increasingly resented by people in Britain. Even many of the islanders themselves acknowledge that a long continuation of the *status quo* could do more political damage than it has military value.

There are sound reasons why Falklanders might be wary of forfeiting good will in this country - the chief one being that progress towards broadening the islands' economic base is proving to be embarrassingly slow. With most of the Government's post-war £31m development cash already allocated (though not necessarily spent) there are no signs of the economic take-off which at one time Falkland Optimists had hoped for.

Some movement has been made in the division of the islands' large estates into smaller owner-occupied sheep farms and output, it is claimed, has gone up where this has happened. But the overall pattern of land ownership looks unlikely to change very dramatically. A feasibility study of in-shore crab fishing has had promising results. But then no-one has yet worked out how and where to market the product, with Britain an expensive 8,000 air miles away and Argentina geographically near but politically distant. The woollen mill established to make better use of the home-grown product is facing not dissimilar difficulties.

Off-shore fishing is a contentious subject, with 130 vessels from a variety of countries, trawling within 200 miles of the islands on one recent count. The islanders want Britain to declare a 200-mile fishing zone, within which these visiting fishermen would

have to pay licence fees to the local economy. The British Government, wary of creating more friction, prefers to work for a multilateral agreement on fish quotas, worked out on the basis of a survey by the Food and Agriculture Organization (to be completed later this year). Either way the growth of local fishing could bring in significant sums if the vessels can be persuaded to put into Port Stanley for facilities.

There are those who still believe that the islands are capable of building up their own tourist industry - for ornithologists, marine archaeologists - or anyone else prepared to pay up to £3,000 a trip. But the numbers are unlikely to be large and there is about this, as about other attempts to exploit the islands' unique potential, a faintly desperate air.

The most recent developments in the Falklands were the closure of the local brewery and the "Up for Sale" sign on that famous local hostelry the Upland Goose. To Baroness Young, deputy Foreign Secretary who returned a week ago from her second visit to the islands, it must have been apparent that in a scattered community of 1,900 people (100 more than at the time of the war) there is a basic shortage of manpower and skills which must hamper any attempts, however well-meant, at expansion.

The chances of local development would be improved by the normalisation of relations with Argentina and the restitution of air links with the South American mainland. That in itself might be encouraged by the lowering of Britain's military profile in the South Atlantic. Neither would guarantee success. But they are starting to look like necessary prerequisites if success is ever to be achieved.

Damage to the tourist trade

From Mr Conal R. Gregory, MP for York (Conservative)
Sir, The evidence that Britain's largest growth industry, tourism, continues to attract record numbers of overseas visitors, spending in excess of £5.4 billion per annum, with a good effect on employment in this sector by some 50,000 jobs a year (report, February 27), is in possible jeopardy on two grounds.

Firstly, the impact of terrorism in Europe is now resulting in substantial cancellations in the UK hotel trade. Almost 48 per cent of travel agents in the USA have experienced visitor cancellations, according to a *Travel Weekly* poll. Whilst it is understandable that there has been concern through last summer's hijacking of a TWA flight in Athens, the seizure of the Achille Lauro cruise ship and the December deaths at airports in Rome and Vienna, too many North Americans consider Britain in the same context. The media photographs of troops and armed police at Heathrow Airport have not dispelled this point. The British Tourist Authority needs to immediately promote Britain as a safe and attractive venue to overseas visitors.

Secondly, the confusion over classification is likely to do untold damage. For years Britain has been out of line with the rest of Europe in having a non-statutory system of registration and classification for accommodation. The ill-conceived crown scheme, which has first been promoted in Scotland and is now extended to Wales and England, results in the nonsense of a three-star hotel (by RAC/AA standards, which are well understood) being "uprated" to five crowns.

The visitor, whether from the UK or overseas, will be disappointed and indeed feel cheated if a hotel claims five crown status, but is frankly not up to the same status awarded to a Park Lane hotel. British tourism will pay dearly if this is not rectified. Yours faithfully,
CONAL GREGORY,
House of Commons,
February 27.

Takeover qualms

From Miss J. L. Hopkins
Sir, With the arrival today of further bulky documents from United Biscuits (Holdings) plc urging their shareholders to vote in favour of the acquisition of Imperial Group at the extraordinary general meeting of UB on March 18 next, I am impelled to express my surprise that, since the merger was proposed in December, 1985, not one of the directors nor, as far as I am aware, anyone else has said that some UB shareholders are most uneasy at the prospect of deriving part of their future income from products carrying a Government health warning.

The only indication that the directors may have had qualms on this score are contained in the paragraph on page 11 of the listing particulars, dated February 28, 1986, in which Sir Hector Laing states, "We expect that, as a result of the growth in the other businesses of the enlarged group, the proportion of profit arising from tobacco will decline significantly over the next few years."

All-rounder

From Mr C. J. Hancock
Sir, I had 19 jobs all with the same employer (HM) - office boy, purchase clerk, registrar, stock controller, pilot, flying instructor, office machines specialist, punch card operator, computer systems designer, O & M analyst, lecturer, course planner, staff inspector, personnel manager, accountant, branch supervisor, management consultant, management (by objectives) adviser, general manager.

Who says the Civil Service is dull? Now I've retired I have only seven jobs: four as an honorary treasurer and three as an honorary auditor: but they are simultaneous.

Yours ever,
C. V. HANCOCK,
41 Rusper Road,
Hfield,
Sussex,
March 3.

Teaching of English

From Professor L. J. Herbst
Sir, The concern about the usage of English, expressed by Professor E. H. Brown and others (February 25) echoes views which have been voiced for over three decades.

A foundation in grammar and syntax does not, by itself, lead to effective communication. Nor is the power of language implanted by precision in teaching, or reflected by precision of expression. It requires an ability to reach ordinary people, and an insight into the social setting which includes the matter at issue, but also extends beyond it.

What is needed is an obligatory broadening at the 16+ and 18+ examination levels, including, at the 16+ stage, English, human-

Blocks on path to Ulster peace

From the Reverend B. A. Hunt
Sir, May an English clergyman of the Irish Presbyterian Church be given a hearing amidst the raucous shouting that is supposed to be the hallmark of every Ulsterman?

The Press and the TV neglect the thousands upon thousands of good, decent people who wish only to milk their cows, lead their beasts to market, and bring up their children in quiet and security.

We do not shout and rage, nor are we bigots. We are frightened in a way that you could hardly imagine in the relative peace you thankfully enjoy. We feel more frightened because our best friend, as it were, has let us down. Our best friend has given us a cure which is honestly (I hope) thought to do the unwilling patient good.

What the Houses of Parliament fail to understand is not the merits or defects of the agreement, but the unfairness of its implementation. It is this which galls us and makes us think we have no defender.

Mr King prides himself in talking to Mr Molyneux and Mr Paisley after the agreement. We think the talking should have taken place before it, and with all the elected members, not simply with one who led at that time a party of one MP.

It's a matter of fair play, and because that has not been seen to be done, we feel terribly sad and let down. I think you would feel the same, had you been treated

similarly. People act desperately when they are put in a desperate position.

Yours faithfully,
B. A. HUNT,
The Manse,
Lisnarrick Road,
Irvinestown,
Co. Fermanagh,
Northern Ireland,
March 4.

From Dr P. A. J. Waddington
Sir, During the miners' strike we heard much about "policing by consent". It was alleged that by preventing the forcible closure of premises and protecting those who wished to work, the police had lost the consent of local mining communities.

Almost a year to the day after that strike ended the police find themselves, once again, maintaining public order and preventing intimidation. Strangely, this time we do not hear complaints from those on the political left that the RUC has lost consent of the community in Ulster.

On the contrary, they insist (rightly) upon the maintenance of the rule of law against unconstitutional action. How do they justify one law for the miners and another for loyalists?

Yours faithfully,
P. A. J. WADDINGTON,
University of Reading,
Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences,
Whiteknights,
P.O. Box 318,
Reading, Berkshire,
March 3.

Sellafield safety

From Dr Ralph H. Thomas
Sir, Mr Robin Russell Jones recently accused the Black inquiry of a reversal of the normal process of scientific reasoning ("Sellafield, leaky as a sieve", February 26). He makes this judgement because the inquiry concluded that nuclear discharges from Sellafield were unlikely to be responsible for the observations that "the rate of leukemia in Seascale ... was 10 times the national average."

It is, however, Mr Jones's scientific reasoning that more properly might be called in question. He implies that leukemia clusters at several locations in the United Kingdom reported by some observers may be attributed to the presence of nearby nuclear installations (presumably by radiation "leaks").

Students of epidemiology are frequently reminded that association does not prove causation. To demonstrate the point, an eminent statistician was fond of demonstrating to his students that there is an extremely high correlation, in north-western Europe,

between the birth rate and the population of stocks.

The fluctuations in the incidence rates of leukemia with locality - which Mr Jones cites in support of his implication that nuclear installations are harmful to the health of the general public - have been a matter of intensive study, both in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Many regions in the United Kingdom and the United States which do have incidence rates higher than the average have no nuclear installations in the vicinity. An extensive study in the United States showed a small but statistically significant negative correlation with natural background (the higher the background, the lower the incidence rate).

These and many other facts must be explained before Mr Jones's assertions are supportable. Yours faithfully,

RALPH H. THOMAS,
Keble College,
Oxford,
February 27.

Mr Olof Palme

From Mr Edward Heath, MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Conservative)
Sir, There is one statement in your obituary of Olof Palme (March 3) which cannot pass uncorrected. You write, "The Brandt Commission was set up by the Socialist International in 1976, and under its aegis Palme led a delegation to southern Africa in the following year". There is no truth whatsoever in this statement.

The Brandt Commission, or the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, to give it its full title, was set up at the instigation of Mr Robert McNamara, the then Chairman of The World Bank. He invited Willy Brandt to establish a balanced

commission composed of members from both the developed and the developing countries and drawn from all political parties.

It was, as its title denotes, independent of all other organisations, including after its establishment in December 1977 - not 1976 - The World Bank. The only visit of the Commission to Africa was to Mali early in 1978 and then it was led, as usual, by Willy Brandt himself.

This in no way detracts from the value of the personal contribution which Olof Palme made in the private discussions of the Commission.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD HEATH,
House of Commons,
March 6.

Move to Rome

From the Chairman of Church Society
Sir, Mr Longley's report (March 4) on the Church Society's decision to consider the establishment of a continuing Church of England failed to point out a vital proviso. This was, "if and when it is proposed that practical steps should be taken to implement the proposals of the ARCIC (Anglo-Roman Catholic International Commission) final report..."

In other words it would be necessary to encourage a continuing Church of England if it were to be decided, for example, that the authoritative universal primacy of the see of Rome were acceptable;

that the Pope has the right "in special cases to intervene in the affairs of a diocese"; that the Pope can express "definitive judgements" on the doctrine and ethics of the Church; and if all Anglicans were committed to the acceptance of views on the Eucharist and the ministry which are novel to the formularies of the Church of England.

But we have a good hope that the members of the Church of England will not allow such a disaster to occur.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PEARCE,
St Simon Zevelot's Vicarage,
34 Milner Street,
Chelsea, SW3.

Hard to grasp

From Mr G. N. D. Smith
Sir, The Reverend M. P. R. Linskill (March 4) fails to point out the advantages of modern wrappings. When I and my friends go caving we each take a M²s Bar, tucked inside helmet or oversuit, as food in case of emergency.

In our demanding sport the climbing, wriggling and heat of exertion combine to melt and

mash our rations, no matter how they are carried.

All too often the old-style wrapper would split, smearing clothing and caver with chocolate, the bar ending up covered with gritty mud. We have yet to experience this with the new packets.

Yours faithfully,
G. N. D. SMITH,
17 Courtney Road, SW19,
March 5.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 10 1986

Not a thundering leader, rather an adomitory one in the run-up to the general election of March 31, when Labour increased its overall majority from four to 96. The article was reproduced in the Daily Mail, Daily Mirror and Evening News; an avalanche of letters was received and a few dozen were printed. Total UK registered unemployment was 380,000 (1.6 per cent); the £ stood at \$2.79 and was devalued in November, 1967 to \$2.40.

WHY THE £ IS WEAK

The economists and financial technicians have their own learned and to themselves no doubt lucid reasons why the £ is weak in the markets and the world. For the ordinary reader they can be stated much more simply.

The £ is weak because Britain is living beyond her means:

- because neither the Labour Government nor the Bank of England nor the British people overcome the crisis a year ago; the foreign lenders did so;
- because Britain is still so heavily in debt abroad;
- because Government spending abroad goes on rising;
- because no Government has the courage to face the British people with the truth...

- because full employment has led unions to overuse their powers and employers to underuse their labour;
- because British industry has continuously lost its share of world markets;
- because whenever the mildest deflation begins to work, it is discontinued before it can even half finish its job;
- because extra leisure is put before extra effort; by too many people in all classes;
- because too many working hours are turned into gambling hours;
- because money is regarded by too many people of all classes as something to be got or won rather than earned...

- because Britain, never having been defeated, still refuses to see she is up against it;
- because the world fears that devaluation will ultimately be chosen as an alternative to deflation, and the world knows this will not solve Britain's long-term problem;
- because while France, Germany, and Italy have had their "economic miracles", Britain has as yet not shown the willingness or the capacity to make the effort to achieve her own "miracle";
- because in all too many cases Britain lives the old instead of the new, seeks reasons not to do things rather than to do them;
- because too many managements have been supine or unimaginative;
- because the change from privilege to talent has been too slow in all too many board rooms;
- because there is on both sides of industry still too much hankering after restriction and too little eagerness for competition;

- because in the last analysis economics is a matter of human nature and not of formulas; no country can be saved if its people will not save themselves;
- because for twenty years leadership has been lacking; soft words have been substituted for hard facts; exhortation has never been followed by deeds; rights have come before responsibilities; the national philosophy has been all take and no give;
- because the world knows that, however slow the descent, the abyss is still at the end of the road.

The £ could be strong if the British people had the ears to hear, the eyes to see, and the will to recover their native sense and energy. They have done it time and again in wars; why can they not do it just once in peace? This is what the general election should be about.

Sunday trading

From Fr B. J. Eager
Sir, Having moved my Sunday evening Mass to Saturday evening, I now wonder how far I have changed completely the nature of Saturday for the 250 or so people who regularly attend. I suspect that some of them may have been shopping before they come.

It does not seem to affect the apparent quality of their worship. In fact, they sing considerably better than those who attend on Sunday morning, and the general atmosphere is certainly more vibrant than it ever was on Sunday evening. Perhaps it is that having sampled Mamma in the market place and superstore, they feel the need for God even more.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. EAGER,
St Catherine's Presbytery,
Newton Road,
Newton,
Warrington,
Cheshire,
March 5.

Enter, a bear

From Mrs Philippa Russell
Sir, Can it be to answer Ivan Stringer (March 3), that as this March came in like a polar bear it will go out like a Paddington (frequently to be seen wearing wellington boots)?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIPPA RUSSELL,
592 Fox Hollis Road,
Hall Green,
Birmingham,
March 4.

Meaningful terms

From Mr Michael Quarmby
Sir, I recently observed the legend "Access Control and Security Specialists" displayed by a firm hitherto content to be known as locksmiths. "High and Difficult Access Inspection Service" I interpreted as offering the help of a sleazebag. Although I may own a subsoil access and inspection implement, I shall continue to call it a spade.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL QUARMBY,
6 Woodlands,
Haleson,
Norfolk,
February 24.

Change of arms

From Mr Philip H. Blake
Sir, Since England relinquished sovereign claims over Ireland as a

whole in 1922 and since the Irish harp in no way now symbolises England's remaining interest, is it not time that the royal arms were changed to a more realistic form by, let us say, substituting the arms of Ulster for those of Ireland and introducing the arms of Wales?

Possibly the best arrangement would be Wales in the third quarter and Ulster in the fourth, so that for use in Scotland the third and fourth quarters of the royal arms would remain the same and only the first and second quarters would need to be transposed.

The advantages of this scheme, apart from its being more representative of Great Britain, are that the arms of the Prince of Wales would be simplified and improved

by the removal of the superimposed shield of Wales, for which there would be no need (alternatively, it could be replaced by the arms of the duchy of Cornwall); and that in the event, at present unlikely, of Ulster's joining the rest of Ireland, it would be a simple matter to reintroduce into the fourth quarter the arms of England or Scotland, as appropriate.

It seems probable that such a revision would meet with general approval in both Wales and Ulster.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP H. BLAKE,
5 Walkin Road,
Folkestone,
Kent,
March 1.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Prince Andrew this morning opened Sailboat 86 at Crystal Palace, London, SE19.
His Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Director of the National Centre of Crystal Palace (Mr John Davies) and the Chairman, Royal Yachting Association Council (Mr Michael Evans).

Princess Anne will attend a dinner given by the Brazilian Ambassador and Senora Gibson-Barbosa at the Brazilian Embassy at 54 Mount Street, W1, on March 12.
Princess Anne, Patron of The Butler Trust, will present the first awards of the Prison Service annual award scheme at Lambeth Palace on March 17.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Director of the Academy (Mr Reginald Collin) and the Chairman of the Academy (Mr Graham Benson).

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 8: The Prince of Wales, President, the Prince's Trust, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, this evening attended a concert in aid of the Trust at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 9: The Duchess of Gloucester, President, The

Royal London School for the Blind, was present this evening at a Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Princess Anne will attend a dinner given by the Brazilian Ambassador and Senora Gibson-Barbosa at the Brazilian Embassy at 54 Mount Street, W1, on March 12.

Princess Anne, Patron of The Butler Trust, will present the first awards of the Prison Service annual award scheme at Lambeth Palace on March 17.
The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, will attend a reception given by the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at St James's Palace on March 19.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Director of the Academy (Mr Reginald Collin) and the Chairman of the Academy (Mr Graham Benson).

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 9: The Duchess of Gloucester, President, The

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.T. Cunningham and Miss H.M. Sturmer
The engagement is announced between Scott, younger son of the late Mr Maurice Cunningham and Mrs Cunningham, of Rotorna, New Zealand, and Harriet Mary, second daughter of Field Marshal Sir John and Lady Stanley, of Whitewater House, Dimpley, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire.

Mr N.M. Wing and Miss S.A. Audley
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs M.F.N. Wing, of Knebworth, Hertfordshire, and Sally, only daughter of Sir Bernard and Lady Audley, of Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.S. Arnold and Miss S.C. Macleod
The engagement is announced between Michael Stuart, son of Mr and Mrs A.A. Arnold, of Thursley, Surrey, and Sandra Dawn Catherine, daughter of Mr P. Macleod, of Ottawa, Canada, and Mrs A. Andrieu, of Montreal, Canada.

Mr L. Brenson and Miss J.A. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs R. Brenson, of Bickley, Kent, and Julie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Thompson, of Rolling Meadows, Illinois, United States.

Mr L. Chen and Miss C. McFarlane
The engagement is announced between Leland, elder son of Mr J. Chen, of Taipei, Taiwan, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M. McFarlane, of Kersal, Salford.

Mr W.F.P. Daunt and Miss M.M. Boyle
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Daunt, of Brussels, and Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Boyle, of Stirling.

Mr D. Grosz and Miss C.S.J. Harris
The engagement is announced between Dan, eldest son of Dr and Mrs S. Grosz, of New Jersey, United States, and Gabrielle, daughter of Mr M.A. Harris and the late Mrs M. Harris, of Balcombe, West Sussex.

Mr C.J.D.R. Hopkinson and Miss C.M. Francis
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Major-General and Mrs J.C.O.R. Hopkinson, of Bigswire House, St. Brivels, Gloucestershire, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G.C. Francis, of East Cliff, Cheshire.

Mr R.T. Nevard and Miss S.V. Cooke
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Nevard, of Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey, and Susan, only daughter of Mr Reginald Cooke and Mrs Vanda Irwin, of Whitchurch, Bristol.

Mr J. Ford and Miss W.J. Hudson
The marriage took place on Saturday, March 8, 1986, at St Paul's Church, Rothesay, Bute.

Mr P.G. Godwin and Mrs J.J. Kerr-Bate de Calvin
The marriage took place quietly in London on Saturday, March 8, of Mr Peter G. Godwin and Mrs Jennifer J. Kerr-Bate de Calvin.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy
REAR ADMIRALS: J.J. Black to be promoted to Rear Admiral on 10.3.86.
M.H. Lines to be Assistant Chief of Naval Staff in succession to Rear Admiral J.J. Black on 10.3.86.
CAPTAINS: A.R.H. Roberts, A.M. to be promoted to Captain on 10.3.86.
M.P. Port to be promoted to Captain on 10.3.86.
M.C.F. Gault, M.V. to be promoted to Captain on 10.3.86.
M.P. to be promoted to Captain on 10.3.86.
M.P. to be promoted to Captain on 10.3.86.
M.P. to be promoted to Captain on 10.3.86.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mrs Heather Eggleston to be Honorary Secretary of the Society for Research into Higher Education, in succession to Dr R.A. Barnett.
Major General Peter Saunders to be Clerk to the Trustees of Morden College, Blackheath, London, in succession to Mr Arthur Snashall, who is to retire.
Mr Malcolm Dinning to be the Forestry Commission's Conservator for East England; Mr Alan Rix to be conservator for the North.

Clifford Longley
Marcos lesson for S Africa

The overthrow of the Marcos regime in the Philippines has been a dramatic example of a Christian church working as an agent of non-violent social and political change in favour of democracy and human rights, which is likely to become a text-book case for future reference, not least in South Africa.
That Cardinal Jaime Sin can visit Europe shortly afterwards, as he is now doing, is a measure of the speed with which peace has returned to this country. His absence from Manila so soon also symbolizes his church's desire not to "play politics" although it has the opportunity and prestige to do so.
He has resisted the temptation to invest the new Aquino regime with the status of an officially approved church party, as if they were latter-day Christian Democrats. The continental European churches did not have such hesitations after the Second World War: it seemed reasonable at the time to promote the revival of post-war democratic politics by supporting the emergence of Christian Democrat parties, but it may not have served the health of the body politic in the long run, nor the interests of churches themselves.

reform, which the church will presumably fight.
The ultimate model of the separation of church and state is the American one, where the greatest liberal democracy in the world is also the country with the strongest sense that religion is a private and personal matter - what used to be called the "privatization" of religion before the war was given other uses.
In such a climate varieties of religion most suited to it are likely to thrive: it is no coincidence that the private and personal salvation offered by born-again Christianity is on its element there. At most, the churches are allowed to venture opinions on the issues of the day, but those who emphasize a social Gospel are in a state of perpetual frustration.
The British have less appetite for the intense private experience associated with being born again, but the British churches are in not much less of a predicament.
Having conceded autonomy to the democratic political process, they are caught by the inevitable consequence, secularization and the sense of their own irrelevance. Their decline may be less their fault than they tend to think.
Nevertheless liberal democracy is the only system likely to support those human rights which the churches themselves would regard as paramount. But with "Christian values" guaranteed by the law and constitution, their public concerns must begin to look more marginal.

Cardinal Sin may envy the English churchmen he has been meeting this weekend that their problem of the moment is the Sunday opening of shops and not the torture of political prisoners. But there is no doubt which of them is the more "relevant" to the immediate needs of their people. This is a paradox which religious institutions in a liberal secular democracy have not yet begun to solve.
This is exactly what is happening in the civil law of marriage in Britain, and when the Lord Chancellor clashed with the Bishop of Birmingham over divorce law reform, as happened not long ago, they were at the exact interface of these two principles.
Thus there is an irony in the Philippine church's invocation of "people power" to bring down Marcos. For "people power" is also likely eventually to demand abortion and divorce law

OBITUARY
GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

Pioneering American abstract artist

Georgia O'Keeffe, the American painter, who died in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on March 6, at the age of 98, spent much of her working life at the centre of the controversy over American modernism; but she herself belonged to no school and developed her own style in a virtually complete disregard of the work and ideas of her husband, Alfred Stieglitz, and those around him.



O'Keeffe had an improbable background for an American artist. She was born on a farm in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and had no contact with the arts until the age of 15, when her family moved to Williamsburg, Virginia.
She studied there and at the Art Institute, Chicago, before going to New York. She won various prizes, but discouraged by formal training, she gave up painting, entirely in favour of commercial art.
She was persuaded to teach in the University of Virginia and at Amarillo, Texas, where she first encountered the evocative, barren landscapes so important to her later work.

From that point there was a methodical evolution of her own art and a gradual recognition of her vital role in the development of American modernism. This was signalled by retrospectives in the Chicago Art Institute in 1943, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1946, and many more.
O'Keeffe's work built steadily on the abstract drawings made at her second beginning in 1916; though all her paintings were closely based on observable phenomena in the world around her.
Others, in her Precisionist, Cubo-Realist manner, derived from highly simplified observation of already geometrical forms taken from nature.
In the early 1930s she first became fascinated by bones, and as the decade progressed, increasingly by the skull, often almost surrealistically treated.
In 1943 she began another series of bone pictures, this time inspired by the pelvis and the characteristic holes in its bones.

In 1916 her career took a new turn when she went to study with Arthur Dow at Columbia University. Dow was much concerned with abstracting design along lines suggested by Far Eastern art. Under his influence she, too, began to produce abstract drawings in charcoal, emphasizing shapes suggestive of the animal and plant world.
She also started to work in watercolours, and this first brought her into contact with Alfred Stieglitz who exhibited it in his innovative and influential 291 Gallery.
She soon gave up teaching altogether and devoted herself to her art. Though from then on one of the central members of the group around Stieglitz, with whom she held many principles in common, she always adhered strictly to the development of a highly personal style.

There was any significant development in her work, it was in the direction of greater abstraction, and yet there was always a sense of retained links with the organic universe.
In recent years O'Keeffe had been re-discovered by feminist art criticism; but her art continued to reject any pandering to fashion.

PROF HUGH O'NEILL

Professor Hugh O'Neill, who died on February 24 at the age of 86, was one of the country's most eminent metallurgists who had a distinguished career both with the old London Midland and Scottish Railway and as an academic in the University of Wales.

O'Neill was a prolific author, publishing more than sixty papers, chiefly on the deformation of metals, and a well-known book, *Hardness of Metals and Its Measurement*, in 1934.
He was a Founder Fellow of the Institution of Metallurgists in 1945, and served on its council for many years; he was president, 1952-53. He always spoke out boldly for linking metallurgical studies with the wider cultures.
During the Second World War he served various government departments and other organisations concerned with welding, fuel efficiency and foundries.

After serving in the First World War he graduated BMet from the University of Sheffield and afterwards lectured for thirteen years at the University of Manchester where he took his doctorate.
From 1934 to 1947 he was Chief Metallurgist of the LMS Railway at Derby and then he occupied the Chair in Metallurgy at University College, Swansea, from which he retired twenty years ago.

He was also active in many areas of education, and had been a voluntary Prison Visitor since 1930.

REAR-ADMIRAL W.S. CUNNINGHAM

Rear-Admiral Winfield Scott Cunningham, who died on March 3, in Memphis, Tennessee, at the age of 86, commanded the American forces who made a short-lived but spirited defence of Wake Island, in the catastrophic early days of the Japanese offensive in the Pacific in 1941.

Nevertheless, when the Japanese arrived to invade on December 11, the defenders repulsed them, sinking two destroyers in the process.
The Japanese subjected Wake to continuous air attack in subsequent days and on December 22 returned with stronger forces, effecting a landing at night. Though the garrison fought back it was eventually compelled to surrender.
Cunningham, who spent the rest of the war as a prisoner, subsequently served at the Memphis Naval Air Station and retired from the US Navy in 1950.

Cunningham, a naval aviator, had been transferred to Wake Island only a week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and he took command of a small force of US Marines, seamen and civilian construction workers whose makeshift armament included guns removed from scrapped battleships, a few machine guns and a half-dozen outmoded F4F fighter planes.

Lord Jeffreys, 2nd Baron, died on February 13. He succeeded to the title on the death of his grandfather in 1960.

The Queen's message to the Commonwealth

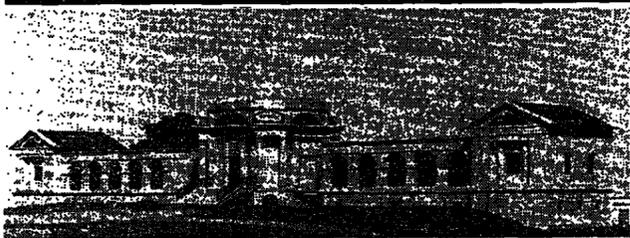
The following is the text of the Queen's message to the Commonwealth issued today, Commonwealth Day.
With the approach of my 60th birthday this year, I have been reflecting on the changes which have taken place in the Commonwealth during the 34 years in which I have been its head.
I have now visited all the independent countries of the Commonwealth and I have watched and welcomed its growth into a group of 49 nations spread over every continent and ocean and containing a quarter of the world's population.
Each country chooses to be long, because it believes that the Commonwealth has a valuable part to play in the world. The importance of its role was clearly shown at the successful Heads of Government Meeting last year at Nassau.
My thoughts are often with the millions of young people

who make up more than half the Commonwealth today. They deserve all the help and all the opportunities we can give them.
I have a message for them, and it is this: I have seen everywhere the eagerness and sense of adventure you all share. I have been touched by your courage and your sympathy for those in need, and by your capacity for friendship.
I ask you now to take every chance you get to know more about the people of other Commonwealth countries, and to meet them and help them, whenever you can.
Together you can not only strengthen the spirit of the Commonwealth itself, but also contribute, by showing goodwill, tolerance and understanding, to the easing of world tensions which threaten all peoples. Between us we can help to assure that we may overcome hardship and poverty and live together in peace and freedom.

Latest wills

Mr John Desmond Crean, of Marylebone, London, Labour MP for Loughborough 1955-1979, who was found dead after falling off his horse in Hampshire, left estate valued at £284,459 net.
Mr Granville Whitaker Taylor, of Burton in Leicestershire, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,048,343 net. He left his estate to relatives.

Miss Dorothy Jessie English, of Sully Oak, Birmingham, the radio actress, left estate valued at £124,149 net.
Mr Edgar William Pilkington, of Swenston, Shropshire, retired company director, left estate valued at £1,776,385 net, which he left mostly to two nieces.



Breathing life into a tomb

Plans to convert the Darley Mausoleum at Cobham, Kent, into a house have been given the go-ahead by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment (Charles Knevez, Our Architecture Correspondent, writes).



Proposals (shown top) prepared for the Earl of Darley by Mrs Jane Wade and Mr John Sell, of Sell Wade Postins, were submitted to Gravesend Borough Council in 1983 and a public inquiry was held the following year. The building, pictured as it is today, is the target of vandalism.
The inspector accepted that "the building is too important to be allowed to degenerate into a ruin, and... that the only reasonable prospect of protecting the building is to have someone in permanent residence on the site."

The Essex Army Cadet Force Colonel E.T. Boddy, County Cadet Commandant, and officers of the Essex Army Cadet Force dined at the County Training Centre, Colchester, on Saturday. Lieutenant-Colonel D.G. Mullis presided and the principal guests were Colonel J.H.L. Parker, retiring Honorary Colonel, and Colonel R.C. Tomkins, incoming Honorary Colonel.

Service dinners

Transport Regiment Officers of 156 (Merseyside and Greater Manchester) Transport Regiment RCT (V) held a ladies' dinner night at the George Masters, V.C. TA Centre, Bootle, on Saturday. Major B.A.F. Russell presided and the principal guest was Colonel Sir David Cooke. Colonel D.E. Gibbs, Honorary Colonel, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. Maxwell, Commanding Officer, also spoke.

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Dinner

The Speaker and Mrs Weatherill were hosts at a dinner held at the House of Commons on Saturday in honour of the Federation of Merchant Tailors. The speakers were Mr. Montague Moss, president of the federation, and Mr R. Bright, honorary secretary. The guests included Mr J. Lesser, President of the Association of Wholesale Woolen Merchants, Mr E. Wade, Principal of the London College of Fashion, Mr J. Wells, President of the Master Tailors Benevolent Association, and Mr T. Edge, Chairman of the Clothing and Allied Products Industry Training Board.

Parliament this week

Commons
Today (2:30): Debate on EEC transport. Debate on Parliamentary Privileges.
Tomorrow (2:30): Debate on EEC shipping policy. Motion on Northern Ireland local government order.
Wednesday (2:30): Debates on Opposition motions. The City and on support for students.
Thursday: Consolidated Fund Bill, all stages. Debates on various topics.
Friday (2:30): Education Bill, second reading.
Tuesday (2:30): Sex Discrimination Bill, committee.
Wednesday (2:30): Debates on nuclear war and on disarmament.
Thursday (2:30): Local Government Bill, report.

Little Ship Club

The Little Ship Club celebrates its diamond jubilee this year, having been founded in 1926. The Jubilee Fitting Out Supper is being held on March 21 at the Naval Club. The president, Sir Owen Aisher, will preside, assisted by Mr P.G. Perry, commodore, and the guest of honour will be Sir Edward du Cann, MP.

Hillstone Downs

The proposed merger between the Hillstone School, Malvern, and The Downs School, Colwall, will not take place.

Sir Anthony Rawlinson

A memorial service for Sir Anthony Rawlinson will be held in Westminster Abbey in noon on Tuesday, April 8, 1986. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply for tickets, in writing, to: The Receiver General, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope. Applications for tickets should be received by Monday, March 24, 1986, and tickets will be posted on Wednesday, April 2, 1986. All are very welcome.

Judge to deliver Reith lectures

Lord McCluskey, the Scottish judge and Solicitor General for Scotland in the last Labour Government, is to deliver the 1986 BBC Reith lectures.
He is the first judge to give the lectures and has chosen the title "Law, Justice and Democracy" for his series of six talks which begins on Radio 4 in November.
Lord McCluskey plans to consider the role of judges, acting with and without juries, in developing and applying civil and criminal law in the United Kingdom.
He intends to examine the qualifications and experience that judges bring to their task, their techniques, the extent of the discretion afforded to them and the factors that influence how they exercise their responsibilities.
Lord McCluskey is a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland and will speak in a personal capacity. He will be the 39th Reith lecturer.

Birthdays today

Sir Lawrence Airey, 60; Sir Robert Bellinger, 76; Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett, 73; Sir Angus Fraser, 58; Sir Samuel Goldman, 74; Sir Charles Groves, 71; Sir Charles Harding, 76; Sir Michael Havers, QC, MP, 63; Mr Terry Holmes, 29; Mr Hugh Johnson, 47; Mr Michael Montague, 54; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Robson, 84; Sir Michael Straker, 58; Dame Eva Turner, 94.

Science report

New licence likely for interferon drug to fight cancer

After a hesitant start, the future looks promising for a new generation of anti-cancer drugs, based on the interferon family of agents, and other similar molecules. They are substances produced normally by the body during a virus infection.
After successful trials in treating an uncommon form of leukaemia with interferon extracts, the Committee for Safety of Medicines has approved the use of two versions of interferon in Britain for this particular disorder, known as hairy cell leukaemia.
The licences are for Kirby-Warrick Pharmaceuticals (the UK end of the Schering-Plough drug company) and Wellcome Biotechnology. A third approval should be issued this week to Hoffmann-La Roche.
A number of cancers are being treated with interferon in clinical trials by international teams.
One of these groups is at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London, where Professor Karel Sicora said: "Over the next ten years the best

approach to cancer treatment could come from the use of natural biological preparations. They would be used in conjunction with other therapies."
Dr Sicora, who is professor of oncology, said: "We do not know how interferon stops tumours growing. The mechanism is being investigated in the laboratory.
"When it is understood it might be possible to select which of more than 30 interferons is best for a specific treatment. Or the research might show that only a small part of an interferon molecule is involved in stopping tumour growth. That could lead to preparations which were simpler to produce."
Interferon is secreted naturally by the white blood cells of the body during a virus infection. But the normal white cells will not grow outside the body.
So although interferon and its anti-viral properties were discovered nearly 30 years ago, by Dr Alick Isaacs and Dr Jean Lindenmann, at the National Institute for Medical Research,

London, there was no way of translating the finding into a treatment for virus diseases.
In perhaps the longest development programme for any drug, three routes were eventually established to make the substance.
Limited and expensive amounts became available in Scandinavia from the late 1960s, following a method perfected in research for the Finnish Red Cross by extracting interferon from donated blood.
The method now providing the largest amounts, of what is regarded as a natural product, was invented by Wellcome Biotechnology to obtain Wellferon.
The Wellcome scientists found a human cell type called a lymphoblastoid. It both generates interferon and grows in fermentation. The reason why these types of cells grow in culture is because they are clones of a tumour cell.
They are called Namalwa cells, named after the young girl from which the originals were obtained. They were treated to render them harmless.

However, the clones still produce the same mixture of molecules as the natural white cells in the body to which they are similar. A series of purification steps extracts the alpha-interferon molecule from the mixture. There are at least 16 members of the alpha-type in that mixture.
The third route, used by Kirby-Warrick, can single out a specific alpha-interferon molecule. The one for which approval has been given for treating leukaemia is called Intron A. The same substance is undergoing trials in three other types of tumour.
The process for obtaining Intron A is an application of the recombinant DNA approach to genetic engineering.
It means that the gene responsible for instructing a white blood cell to produce interferon has been snipped biochemically from the cell. That gene is transferred to a harmless strain of bacteria, which is grown in fermentation tanks. As it grows it produces the interferon molecule, which is again separated by a series of purification steps.

THE ARTS

Television
Format
absolute

No one could reasonably call *The South Bank Show* (ITV, yesterday) an absolute beginner. In the language of the novel by Colin MacInnes now transformed into the latest white hope of the British film industry, *The South Bank Show* is a senior; it has sustained a position of pre-eminence in the field of television arts coverage for some years.

The novel *Absolute Beginners* also uses the word "conscript" to describe mature persons of limited imagination who are in receipt of regular wages. There is a touch of the conscript about *The South Bank Show*, in covering the major events in the arts with documentaries which are at least technically irreproachable and throughly researched, and at best works of art in their own right, the programme has rarely deviated from which it rarely deviates.

The format has its merits. In yesterday's programme we were treated to an interesting interview with the director and producer of *Absolute Beginners*, Julien Temple and Steve Woolley, who talked about a teenage age which began in the Fifties and ended with Punk in the mid-Seventies. Added to this were stunning clips from the musical and generous moments on the film's sets.

However, they also talked about the strategies they adopted to acquire the finance (coily estimated at between £6m. and £7m.) for the film, and there was an attempt to discuss the British film industry as a whole.

If ever there was an idea whose time had come, this was it — and yet the format did not permit the discussion to range beyond the film itself. Thus an important opportunity to acquaint the public with the state of cinema in Britain, and in the world, was missed. Frustrating as this programme may have been, it was splendid by comparison with *My Britain*, a personal view by the journalist Christopher Hitchens screened on Channel 4, which was as callow and sloppily directed as that tolerant part of the medium allows.

Celia Brayfield



Liza Minnelli
Palladium

It was of course a coincidence that Liza Minnelli opened her British season the same week that Frank Sinatra's version of Kander and Ebb's "Theme from *New York, New York*" achieved its unlikely placing in the Top 10 singles chart; a coincidence which had not escaped Miss Minnelli's attention. The song, she declared, had been written by "my two best friends in the whole world, and they wrote it for me, specially for me". So saying, she proceeded to belt it out with the kind of vigour that one suspects would have left Sinatra a little breathless, even 30 years ago.

Proprietorial points at stake or not, the extraordinary energy and vivacious enthusiasm with which Minnelli broached her chosen material were, as ever, her most distinctive characteristics. Wearing a beaded scarlet top and black skirt, she began with the Irving Berlin standard "Blue Skies", which suffered rough treatment at the hands of a ruminous chicken-in-the-basket funk rhythm. A medley of sad songs packaged Vegas-style within a fragmented version of Elton John's "Sad Songs (Say So Much)" fared little better.

But, when she had freer rein to impose her dominating personality on to material of a more specifically narrative nature, she presented a more engaging front. "I've Got to Get to London Town", the story of a travelling woman with gradually loosening morals, and her tale of Ella Finch, a compulsive shoplifter, were two of many witty and sharply observed vignettes that provided a loose theme for the show. Despite the range of these characters — from her friend Angela with a "relationship" problem to the old marriage partner complaining "You've Let Yourself Go" — they all ended up as another part of Liza Minnelli rather than vice versa. Be it the Mad Woman of Chailot, or Mama Rose from *Gypsy* Lee, no matter what their origins, they all became the same brassy, streetwise, saddened but resilient survivor of bruising emotional battles; consistently more was learnt about the narrator than about the subjects.

Rowan Atkinson:
The New Revue
Shaftesbury

After circling his microphone with the part of an arambitious flamingo and firing off an opener in the character of a vicar bidding a last farewell to three members of the congregation he is heartily glad to be laying to rest. Rowan Atkinson then comes downstage to greet his fans. How nice, he says, to have a few friendly words with us, and to be normal for a minute or two. Meanwhile, his neck is undergoing violent spasms and his arms are trying to detach themselves from his body. If there is one thing Atkinson cannot do, it is to be himself on stage.

Like his 1981 show, *The New Revue* is a gallery of grotesques. For each one he has a facial mask which remains as firmly in place throughout the sketch as if made of papier mâché. There is his Earl of Stockton, tongueolling and upper lip drawn down over the teeth; there is his cribbing exam candidate, eyes slyly zapping from side to side and blubber lips pushed forward; there is a menagerie of winsomely elegant birds and fish, and a hobgoblin rock star pulverized by his own amplifiers.

His range is as inexhaustible as a rubber toy that can be twisted into any shape. But, again and again, what comes over is a view of the world as a classroom under the control of a mad pedagogue. Atkinson's authority figures, though they may slip into Scots or Geordie accents, do not suffer from nervous twitches, and speak out in bold ringing tones. It is those on the receiving end who go into convulsions, and they are at their funniest when they do not speak at all. The almost wordless maths exam, with Atkinson simulating a blue bottle to distract his fellow candidates and then swatting the invisible insect when caught out, is one marvelously sustained example. Another is his ordeal as a tube traveller assailed by an invisible man in the next seat and favouring the other passengers with a sickly smile when released from being held upright with two unseen fingers up his nostrils. Sometimes (as in that sketch) the worm turns; and, when it comes to dialogue, his writers (Vic Curtis and Ben Elton) are dextrous at double-edged compliments and poisoned bouquets. In one such revengeful flight, Atkinson comes on to receive an acting prize on behalf of an envied colleague and launches into a snarling massacre of *West End* theatregoing that develops well beyond the complaints of an underdog.

Rowan Atkinson:
The New Revue
Shaftesbury

Where he touches on politics, though, with limp, mindless one-liners, the show really does descend to the fifth form level, and finally touches rock bottom in the famous roll-call sketch which he has now disastrously re-written entirely in ruderities.

He is partnered by Angus Deayton, who plausibly introduces himself as Atkinson's bodyguard and then sinks into the role of a malcontent feed. Mr Deayton is an able comedian and more could have been made of his mutinous feelings towards the star. As it is, he is mainly limited to playing the blank-faced stooge, thus underlining the hourly conventional form of Robin Le Fey's production, which consists of isolated sketches terminating in punch-lines and blackouts. This might still do for a full company revue, but a two-man show demands something more fluid.

Still, as ever, you are finally left with the unarguable fact of Atkinson's comic destructibility, and of his immense skill: whether performing a news summary for the deaf, illustrated with home-made punning sign-language, each gesture as witty and economical as a one-line drawing, or coming on as an Indian waiter serving a party of nine beer-sodden drunks, each one as visible as in a Bill Tidy cartoon.

Irving Wardle

Rodrigo
Festival

Romero/Ara/
De Canck
Purcell Room

Joaquin Rodrigo's position as Spain's first man of music remains unchallenged, yet perhaps after all he is more of a patchy composer than his high reputation suggests. Unquestionably so, in fact, if the contents of this recital, the third event in London's extravagant celebrations of his eighty-fifth birthday, are to be taken as representative, though we would do well to remember that Britten, for example, arguably our closest national equivalent, could occasionally produce some fairly ordinary music.

One of the misses here was a seemingly unending sequence of *Canciones valencianas*, arrangements of folk-tunes for violin and piano made in 1982, where too often the piano accompaniments were naive and prosaic, laden with much dull and rather obvious sequential writing. Another was *Serenata al alba del día* for violin and guitar, again from 1982, whose dry sparseness recalls the Stravinsky of the 1920s only without the same toughness.

Yet in 1966 Rodrigo's ability to charm was as great as ever, as the engaging *Sonata pinguante* for violin and piano from that year demonstrated. The central Adagio wove the same sort of spells as that famous slow movement from a certain *Concierto de Aranjuez*, while there was a nice sense of contrast in the first movement and the finale purveyed an attractive line in sharp, quasi-bitonal pranks. Agustín León Ara and Eugene de Canck played with the utmost sympathy and skill.

Earlier the guitarist Pepe Romero cleverly prefaced four of the master's works with a parallel sequence that pointed out their obvious antecedents. Thus the suavely done *Fantasia* by Luis de Milan exploited many of the same technical devices as Rodrigo's *Tiento antiguo*, while Albeniz's "Sevilla" painted a local picture, and did so rather more exuberantly than Rodrigo's serenely beautiful *Junto al Generalife*. Similarly two classical works, Fernando Sor's introduction, Theme and Variations and Giuliani's Grand Overture, provided some sort of link with Rodrigo's suite *Tres pequeñas piezas* and another crisp and witty guitar sonata. Romero played everything with a heartfelt dedication that was obviously his personal homage.

Stephen Pettitt

Weekend
entertainers

To be
or not
to be
one's
self

Photographs of Liza Minnelli and Rowan Atkinson by Donald Cooper



twisted into any shape. But, again and again, what comes over is a view of the world as a classroom under the control of a mad pedagogue. Atkinson's authority figures, though they may slip into Scots or Geordie accents, do not suffer from nervous twitches, and speak out in bold ringing tones. It is those on the receiving end who go into convulsions, and they are at their funniest when they do not speak at all.

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Here, if anywhere, he is speaking directly and knows what he is talking about.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Lontano/Martinez
St John's

This was the riskiest of the current bountiful season of BBC Invitation Concerts, offering four new or newish pieces by young or youngish composers. A success rate of 25 per cent is probably about par for the course on these occasions; it was just a pity that the best piece came first, and that after the inventive high spirits of Martin Butler's Concertino there was rather a long dying fall. But at least expectations were kept high by the sympathetic and wide-awake musicianship of Lontano under their tireless conductor Odaline de la Martinez.

Butler's piece well repaid all their efforts. Commissioned by the London Sinfonietta, and scored for the basic Sinfonietta ensemble, it spins with characteristic solos for everybody, usually couched within a complex interweave that is perfectly imagined. The ideas grow towards clarity and definition, except for a Messiaen-style last trumpet on the trombone. There is a touch of Birtwistle in the mix too.

Bournemouth SO/
Barshai
Festival Hall

Mahler's Ninth Symphony on its own makes for a short concert, but the work itself is so rich musically, so completely achieved, that it effortlessly stands by itself. Or should it? Having tried to respect Rudolf Barshai's view of it on his own terms, I am bound to say that this became increasingly difficult as his performance went on, and finally impossible.

You could tell from Barshai's brisk, matter-of-fact treatment of the symphony's very opening bars that he was not going to hang about unduly; and to start with it seemed that his very direct, no-nonsense, almost Hindemithian approach to Mahler's complex first-movement structure might yield genuine if unusual dividends. But, by the time we were into the development, there could be only one conclusion: no way. There seemed to be no awareness whatever of the music's ebb and flow, of its subtle

Malcolm Hayes

and maybe some Boulez, but the work has a life and a brilliance of its own. Butler is still completing his studies at Princeton, but on this evidence he has little to learn about orchestration, or about creating a multi-faceted musical movement that runs and dances.

It did show up quite baldly the dim level of imagination in two other pieces on the programme: these are perhaps better left in the obscurity which they did so little to trouble. But Roger Marsh's *Song of Abigail* had its moments, chiefly thanks to the presence of Frances Lynch as narrator-heroine.

Marsh seems to be somewhere near the beginning of a project to set the Bible, and here he casts a cynical eye on one of the less admirable episodes in the life of King David. He makes a very little music go a long way, and the odd reproductions of Anglican psalm-chanting are not as funny as they ought to be. But there was certainly charm in Miss Lynch's amused, demotic accent of Abigail's dubious actions.

Paul Griffiths

interaction of elements, of its underlying sense of appalling crisis. The wonderful horn-call in the coda had been so erroneously set up by the previous 20-odd minutes that even this usually magical moment went for nothing — a shame, because it was superbly played.

The two basically anti-expressive inner movements not surprisingly came across much better, with an impressively trenchant Rondo-Burleske. But Barshai's attitude to the final adagio can only be called an aberration.

It must be slow: Mahler's indications in the score are quite specific. Barshai's basic tempo was so quick as to make nonsense of the music on its own terms (phrasing and harmony hopelessly undercut), to say nothing of its context within the symphony as a whole. The pity was that some consistently controlled and beautiful orchestral playing — lovely divided strings in the closing bars, for instance — found itself being so sadly mis-applied.

Malcolm Hayes

Dance: Clive Barnes finds Glen Tetley returning to form
and building a North American reputation at last
Relating fiction to reality

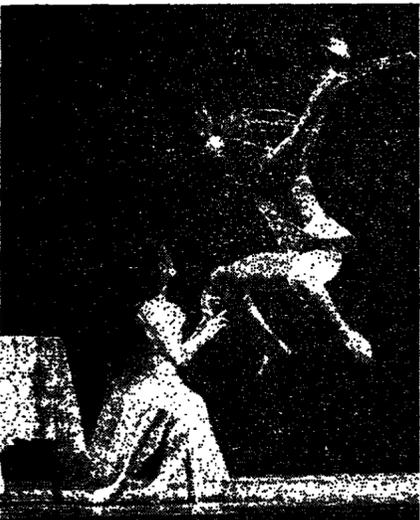
Alice
O'Keefe Center,
Toronto

Glen Tetley's major new creation *Alice*, just premiered here by the National Ballet of Canada, is a matter of importance to Erik Bruhn's resurgent company, and also to Tetley himself. His reputation as a choreographer has always stood far higher in Europe than in North America; and thus the evident success of *Alice* might serve not so much to rehabilitate Tetley's American reputation as to establish it.

Always an admirer of Tetley's talent, I am not certain that I see in *Alice* any great advance. But it is certainly one of his better works, a welcome return to form after such disappointments as his blustery *Daphnis and Chloe* for the Houston Ballet and an obscurantist *Dream Walk of the Shaman* for Italy's Aterballetto, both recently seen in New York.

Alice is a memory ballet, and is bound to evoke after-images of Tudor and even MacMillan. It is a vast distance from the *Alice in Wonderland* created in 1953 for Festival Ballet by Michael Charney, from which only the recollection of John Gilpin's White Rabbit survives, like the grin of the Cheshire Cat. Tetley had no wish to create a mimetic version of the Lewis Carroll classics. His *Alice* is an attempt to relate the fiction to its reality, entwining Carroll's fantasy with the actual figures of the Revd Charles Dodgson and his youthful muse, Alice Liddell.

Tetley, clearly fascinated by literary excursions into this eminent Victorian relationship, found his initial inspiration in David Del Tredici's Pulitzer prize score *Child Alice*, in particular the first section of it, *In Memory of a Summer Day*. The music, for soprano and orchestra, is determinedly dramatic, and it is sometimes difficult to believe that it was not written with stage presentation in mind. From the moment the scrim rises on Nadine Baylis's setting, a world of the lichened rocks of memory, complete with a rabbit-hole and its built-in mirror, Tetley immediately shows his hand. We have not one but two Alices, the child of summer memory (either Kimberley Glasco or Sabine Alessandri) and the mature Alice Hargreaves (Karen Kain) — all three absolute-ly delightful, with Glasco showing why many regard her as Canada's next ballerina.



The delightfully high promise of Kimberley Glasco, with Owen Montague's elegantly distraught White Rabbit; and (below) Rex Harrington's incongruously Byronic lover



Now, unfortunately, what we also see is "Lewis Carroll" in the dashing person of Rex Harrington, cutting the figure of a positively Byronic lover with his young Alice. Is this any likely resemblance to the true Dodgson/Liddell relationship? The same concept of romantic love is re-emphasized when Tetley introduces a strong element of parallelism in the choreography, with duets by Dodgson and the young Alice being mirrored by those between the mature Alice and her husband, another stalwartly romantic portrayal, by Peter Ortmann. This psychological chaos is deepened by having Mr Ortmann double in the role of the Caterpillar. However it is in the whimsical Carrollian fauna and fauna, rather than

PRE-BUDGET
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only £36
When we offered the Vacqueyras 1981, it became an immediate favourite. Now, we have obtained 1200 cases of the 1982 vintage which, we believe, is even more delicious.
The vines of the highly-rated Cave Coopérative de Vacqueyras are set in terraces among the foothills of the Mont de Ventoux. By controlling the yield of these vines and by skilled blending of four grape varieties (the Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah and Cinsaut), a classic red wine is produced, in the traditional Rhône style.
David Bedford, Master of Wine, notes the wine as having "an attractive ruby colour, a lovely rich aromatic nose and a round, succulent flavour with a concentrated depth of fruit. It is now drinking at its very best and will be at its peak over the next twelve months. The perfect wine to enjoy with roast meats or casseroles."
At the exceptional price of £36 per case — just £3.00 per bottle — (and remember the budget is fast approaching!) it is to be highly recommended.
THE VICTORIA WINE COMPANY
The Victoria Wine Company Limited, Registered in England No. 19019A Registered Office: Brook House, Chertsey Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 5BE Telephone 04162 5000
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OR TELEPHONE Woking (04162) 5066 X 303
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I wish to order _____ case/s of the Vacqueyras A.C. Côtes du Rhône 1982 at £36 per case (inc vat).
Please tick appropriate box
 Deliver to my local Victoria Wine shop (see telephone directory) at no extra charge. I will pay when I collect my wine.
Victoria Wine Shop Address: (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)
OR
 Deliver direct to my home address at an additional £3.00 per case. I enclose my cheque payable to The Victoria Wine Company Ltd. Please debit my Access Visa/Amex/Amersan/Express Account (delete as appropriate).

(fill in account number for home delivery only)
MR/MRS/MISS _____
HOME ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____
Domestic telephone number if collecting from shop _____
SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
(I am 18 years or over)
This offer is valid until 31st March 1986. Please note that the price of the wine is subject to change without notice. The Victoria Wine Company is not responsible for any loss or damage to goods in transit. Delivery is subject to availability. The Victoria Wine Company is a member of the British Wine Association.

An invitation to cut Hanson's profit forecast down to size.

+34%

34%. That's the profit increase Hanson Trust is forecasting for its current financial year.

From £252.8 million in 1985 to not less than £340 million. On the face of it, great news for Hanson's shareholders.

But where will these increased profits come from?

Well, we estimate that around 20% (some £52 million) will come from interest savings arising from last year's rights issue. In other words, a once-and-for-all gain paid for by investors.

Profits, certainly. But are these profits from organic business growth?

Out with the scissors. Lop off 20%.

+14%

That leaves 14%. Still a relatively healthy increase. But from where?

We estimate that £32 million should come from the first-time contribution to Hanson profits from SCM - a company bought during this financial year.

Once again, not profits from organic growth but from acquisition.

Bang goes another 12% or so.

+2%

And what are we left with? An increase of less than 2%. Oh dear.

Under 2% of organic business growth.

What's that? Inflation? You mean it hasn't been taken into...

-?%



US NOTEBOOK

Volcker abandons defence of dollar

From Maxwell Newton New York

The decision by Mr Paul Volcker, the US central bank chairman, to cut the discount rate to 7 per cent...

The dollar has now been devalued by between 20 and 25 per cent since February last year...

Despite the devaluation to date, import prices have hardly risen. Exporting nations such as Japan and Germany have enjoyed huge reductions in yen and mark import prices...

The continuation of enormous trade deficits in 1986 is assured. In the immediate future the knowledge that the dollar is heading downwards will stimulate ordering of imports and delays in receipts from exports.

The domestic economic situation in America certainly justified the lower discount rate and the wholesale reduction in the prime rate from 9.5 per cent to 9 per cent.

In January retail sales, industrial production, durable goods orders and the index of leading indicators, and now, the February unemployment figures, have indicated that the monetarist consensus forecast of a surge in growth in the first quarter of 1986 has been sadly astray.

In February the official rate of unemployment rose sharply - from 6.6 per cent to 7.3 per cent. The January growth of employment, which had seemed to give the consensus forecast some semblance of reality, was upgraded from a completely unrealistic 566,000 growth to 421,000.

The increase in payroll employment in February was 226,000, much in line with the monthly rise which in 1985 produced the lowest rate of economic growth since the recession year of 1982.

So Mr Volcker, in cutting the discount rate has, in effect, conceded to his critics in the Administration - Mr James Baker, Secretary of the Treasury, and in the Fed Mr Preston Martin, the vice-chairman. Representing a traditionalist fear of inflation, Mr Volcker has played a defensive game since July, 1985, when he established the 8 per cent federal funds policy, which has continued until the recent discount rate cut.

There are no signs of accelerating inflation in America, but the monetarists are campaigning vigorously on the theme that recent money growth, with the devaluation of the dollar, must produce inflation rising to 7 per cent in 1987.

Mr Volcker has indicated his support for a line of thinking in his public statements and by his actions.

We must look forward to continuing weakness in the dollar. A few analysts have forecast that the problem of the bilateral deficit between Japan and America can be resolved only by a rise of the yen to 100 against the dollar this year or next (as long as there is no recession in America). In truth, of course, the current period of expansion is becoming old, and the economy is due for a recession in 1986 or 1987.

Another consideration pressing on Mr Volcker is the knowledge that the devaluation of the dollar is causing substantial losses to foreign investors, as all their gains from the boom in the price of US securities have been offset by the devaluation of the dollar.

The round of cuts in discount rates is certainly helpful in avoiding further worldwide economic stagnation. But it is no substitute for much more radical measures needed to prevent the US from continuing to suck in vast quantities of savings from Germany and Japan.

Banks threaten to sue ITC if tin deadlock continues

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Bankers gave warning yesterday that they will sue the 22 members of the International Tin Council and try to prevent them from raising money on international markets if diplomatic activity over the weekend fails to resurrect an agreed solution to the tin crisis.

The diplomatic activity was concentrated on Indonesia, whose decision on Friday morning not to support the TinCo plan caused the talks to collapse.

Mr Peter Lai, the Malaysian chairman of the ITC, and the British Government have been applying intense political pressure on Indonesia, the world's second biggest tin producer.

ITC delegate sources said that they should know at this morning's meeting of the council whether Jakarta had changed its mind. They will also discover whether Thailand, which asked for more

time to consider the TinCo plan, will support it.

The ITC sources admitted, however, that there was only a 5 per cent chance that TinCo could be saved.

The plan was for the company to take over the ITC's obligations of 85,000 tons of tin, in return for which the ITC would be relieved of its gross debts of £900 million.

If no agreement is reached by Wednesday, when the London Metal Exchange is due to try to clear the outstanding contracts between members, all realistic hope for TinCo will have gone, the ITC sources said.

Sir Adam Ridley, a director of Hambros Bank and spokesman for the 16 bank creditors owed £350 million by the ITC, said: "If there is no solution we shall sue. There could be common grounds on which we could sue together and have a common interest in doing so."

Sir Adam pointed out that failure by ITC members to meet their debts could trigger cross default clauses in loan agreements. Banks would also examine whether to block attempts by countries they regarded as culprits to raise money on the Euromarkets. Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia are the most likely targets, he said.

But ITC sources said that council members were confident of their immunity against prosecution. "Members are almost willing the banks to sue so that they can test whether they are immune," the sources said.

If, as seems most likely, TinCo is stillborn, the ITC will not know what to do. Its enabling agreement remains in force until members decide otherwise, but the council has almost run out of money. About a dozen of its 40 staff have been given notice.

The sources said: "The ITC is, in legal parlance, a man of straw. There's nothing to do next because the member countries have categorically stated that they want nothing to do with it. It's going to be a very funny week." One crucial unanswered question is what will happen to the tin trading contracts made directly between the ITC and individual brokers. The LME "ring out" at £6,250 a ton scheduled for Wednesday will only settle deals between exchange members.

The tin crisis broke on October 24 last year when the ITC buffer stock said it had run out of money and could no longer support the world tin price. Tin trading on the LME was immediately suspended. The LME said at the end of last week that it is very unlikely that the tin future's contract will be revived.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

First things first in a tight Budget

Apart from the persistent lengthening of the dole queue, the latest phase of the pre-Budget period has been going curiously well for Mr Nigel Lawson. First the Westland affair offered redder political meat elsewhere, while the markets got on with assimilating a halving of the oil price. Now, thanks to the fall of a few interest-rate dominoes in other big economies, the Chancellor is rolling towards March 18 with the interest-rate indicators pointing down.

The fall in oil prices has been so great that the time-honoured political routine of lowering expectations has been achieved with no trouble at all. Furthermore, the degree of confusion in which this has left the forecasting game makes it easier for Mr Lawson to produce whatever figures for government finance he fancies on Budget Day. This confusion seems to have scrambled the usual unsolicited pre-Budget advice. From the "dry" corner, Professor Patrick Minford and the Institute of Directors are urging lots of lovely Budget giveaways; half the City seems to be endorsing higher borrowing, while the Confederation of British Industry, which has so often entered into an effective pre-Budget coalition with "wet" Tory MPs, favours budgetary prudence.

Of course, Mr Lawson has lost most of his scope for income tax cuts. Even this change is less of a political disaster than it might have been. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson have failed to sell their tax-cutting strategy to their supporters, who are inclined to ask why, with wages racing ahead of inflation and unemployment still rising, it is sensible to give yet more unearned purchasing power to those in work, rather than invent new programmes to reduce the dole queues before the next election.

A Budget in which the Chancellor is due to present long-term proposals for personal tax provides an overdue opportunity for political salesmanship, at no immediate cost.

Well, there the Chancellor's silver lining ends. The cloud over the oil market remains, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has arranged its next, acrimonious talks very awkwardly for Mr Lawson.

However well-prepared the taxpayer for meagre tax cuts, the expectation that Mr Lawson must be preparing for some smart tax juggling has increased even as hopes of a giveaway Budget receded.

Meanwhile, Mr Lawson has to sort out Britain's monetary policy. Much more interest, of course, now centres on his exchange-rate strategy than on his domestic monetary targets, but he is going to have to produce a new set on Budget day.

Dear little M0 is still behaving pretty well; dreadful old sterling M3

is not. The Treasury and the Bank have been grooming a new, wider money measure, but we are all stuck with sterling M3 for 1986-87, and it is hard to set a target that will allow interest rates to fall but yet look reasonably disciplinarian.

As successive Commons audiences have demonstrated, however, the alphabet of monetary policy is of much less interest than the smallest of the Chancellor's tax changes. Last year's defeat by the pension funds, his predecessor's pledge not to repeat a windfall raid on bank profits and Mrs Thatcher's pledge to leave the structure of value-added tax largely unchanged have left Mr Lawson a little short of options.

Plainly, there is some mileage to be extracted from yet another package of modest employment measures masterminded by Lord Young. But both Mr Lawson and his predecessor have presented a "Budget for jobs" too often. Some new combination of Mrs Thatcher's theme tune of "popular capitalism", together with tax breaks for the lower paid, have got to be scraped together.

"Popular capitalism" can come quite cheap. A further cut in stamp duty might be almost self-financing. Further measures to stimulate direct share purchases by individuals, at work or out of nest-eggs, can be introduced within Mr Lawson's limited means, particularly if he finds some new way of taxing financial services.

But the popularity of such schemes could fade if they were introduced in a bear market; in the meantime, the Government is hooked on its own strictures about the need to help the lowest paid. Further cuts in National Insurance fit this bill, are essential to continue the task Mr Lawson began last year and are reasonably cheap. But the logic of his leader's pronouncements also points to cuts in the basic rate of income tax. And these are much more expensive than the Government's usual little increases in tax allowances. The obvious compromise - a cut in the basic rate, limited to the first few hundred pounds of taxable income - suffers from the objection that Mr Lawson's predecessor chose to abolish just such a lower-rate tax band.

There has, therefore, been a nagging temptation to claw back extra tax on cheaper petrol (beyond the fivepence needed to match inflation) to finance a general cut in the rate of income tax. It must still be resisted. If the Chancellor's last-minute sums look that bad, it would be better to make a good job of National Insurance reform this year and leave income tax for next. Unnecessary interference is almost always a mistake.

Sarah Hogg Economics Editor

Gulliver 'will not resign'

By Our City Staff

Mr James Gulliver, chairman of Argyle Group, yesterday dismissed weekend press speculation that he was about to resign following reports that certain aspects of his entry in Who's Who were misleading.

Mr Gulliver issued a statement saying, "One entry in the record of my academic and business career, relating to a degree achieved in 1954, has been incorrectly stated. I regret this error has not been previously corrected."

Who's Who says Mr Gulliver was educated at the universities of Glasgow and Harvard. He did obtain a first class honours degree in engineering from Glasgow University in 1953 and then a Master of Science degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1954. He spent three weeks at Harvard Business School in 1954 on a marketing course.



James Gulliver: regrets error in Who's Who entry

Masters degree from Harvard Business School, which the company had not corrected.

Argyle's statement continued that the company was committed to acquiring Distillers and building Argyle into a major and successful food and drinks group. It would not be deflected by attempts to divert attention away from the real issues.

A spokesman for Distillers said the story about Mr Gulliver had not come from the official public relations department within Distillers. The spokesman could not rule out that the information came unofficially from someone from within Distillers.

Distillers is concerned that the story, whether officially or unofficially spread, could reflect badly on its willingness to resort to so-called dirty tricks in the what must rate as one of the most bitter bid battles seen in this country.

One point cut in base rates expected

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor of the Exchequer must overcome several hurdles before he can deliver a cut in base rates next week. But a reduction of a point still looks likely. The provisional money supply figures for February, due out tomorrow, must be acceptably good if Mr Nigel Lawson is to be able to cut rates from 12.5 per cent and at the same time claim that the Government's medium term financial strategy is on course.

The sterling M3 measure of money supply, to be reinstated in the Budget, is expected to have grown by about 1 per cent in banking February after a rise of just 0.1 per cent in January.

A sharp rise in sterling M3 as a result of a renewed bank lending surge could limit the possibilities for reducing rates. The main influence will continue to be the pound's performance. The past fortnight has seen extreme volatility in the foreign exchange markets, with first the dollar and then sterling coming under severe pressure.

Despite the interest rate reductions in West Germany, France, The Netherlands, Japan and, most importantly, the United States, last week, the pound continued to look vulnerable.

This is mainly due to nervousness ahead of the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva, starting on Sunday, and uncertainties about the contents of next Tuesday's Budget.

Although the Opec meeting is unlikely to produce any surprises, the pound may require the extra interest rate cushion provided by others' reductions while it is taking place.

In addition, the foreign exchange markets are looking for a Budget which shows the Government sticking rigidly to its financial plans.

This may rule out an increase in borrowing from the £7.5 billion for 1986-87 in current plans. However, two reports published today suggest that the Chancellor will boost his borrowing in the Budget.

The Lloyds Bank Economic Bulletin predicts that a rise in the public sector borrowing requirement to £9.5 billion will be announced next week so that the Chancellor can cut personal taxation. Laing & Cruickshank, the stockbroker, argues, for similar reasons, that the PSBR target will be raised to £8.5 billion.

Debt pact

Poland has reached agreement with Western banks for the rescheduling of \$1.6 billion (£1.1 billion) of outstanding debt repayments.

Big rise in shares 'unlikely'

By Sarah Hogg Economics Editor

Equity prices will not rise much in 1986-87, according to the London Business School's Financial Outlook, published today.

The LBS Centre for Forecasting argues that the boost to profits from the recent fall in the exchange rate was already reflected in the stock market rise over the past month.

Its report points out that individuals were net purchasers of equities in the second quarter of last year for the first time since the bottom of the market in 1974. But they became net sellers in the third quarter, a pattern that was likely to continue, the report argues.

Financial Outlook singles out for comment the "extraordinarily high" growth in personal credit in Britain. Personal sector bank credit, it points out, accelerated to a 21.9 per cent growth rate in 1985, if bank loans to building societies were included. However, it believed that the growth of both loans and deposits by the personal sector would decline in 1986.

In a special article two of the LBS's authors argue that the fall in oil output will have little effect on living standards in Britain because investment, at first abroad then at home, during the period of highest earnings represented a level of saving that will now yield a substantial income stream.

Charter urges shift to jobs strategy

The Government's medium-term financial strategy should be replaced by a medium-term employment strategy, the Charter for Jobs, the all-party pressure group on unemployment, says today.

The Charter, in its latest Economic Report, recommends setting targets for cutting unemployment, subject to keeping inflation down and avoiding balance of payments pressures. A target could be the reduction of unemployment to about 2 million by 1990, while keeping inflation in the 3-6 per cent range.

The Government should use all the weapons in its control to achieve such a reduction, the Charter says, including prices and incomes policies, selective employment programmes and further cuts in employers' National Insurance contributions.

Financial markets would retain their confidence in a Government pursuing such a strategy, the Charter's director, Mr Jon Shields, says.

Imps will keep up advertising war

By Alison Eadie

Imperial Group will today tell shareholders that the company intends "to stick to its guns" in its advertising campaign against Hanson Trust, despite Hanson's legal actions against Imperial's advertisements.

In a letter to shareholders Mr Geoffrey Kent, chairman of Imperial, will also question why Hanson has not informed them of the extent of its involvement in South Africa, which it says undermines Hanson's quality of earnings.

Hanson's lawyers wrote to Imperial last week, saying that Hanson's battery business, Ever Ready, was heavily represented in South Africa and that Ever Ready's South African profits (in rand) and British profits were both up in the second half of 1985. The 31 per cent fall in profits in the second half 1985, to which Imperial drew attention, resulted from a collapse of the rand.

Imperial estimates that Ever Ready's South African operations would have made profits of £15 million last year, if 1984 exchange rates had been used, and claims that Hanson has failed to identify the extent of South African involvement in the report and accounts for the last three years.

Imperial is expected to announce this week the sale for between £55 million and £60 million of its Golden Wonder crisps and snack foods division. The disposal is being made to remove objections by the Office of Fair Trading to the United Biscuits-Imperial merger. The buyer has not yet been chosen.

Representatives of two American companies arrived in London yesterday to talk to Imperial about Golden Wonder. Allied-Lyons is the third strong contender, and there are other hopefuls in the wings.

Inland Revenue muddle over BES clearance

By Lawrence Lever

The Inland Revenue is in disarray over its provisional clearance procedure for companies seeking finance under the Business Expansion Scheme.

This is potentially damaging to investors in BES companies who run the risk of not getting tax relief if a company subsequently does not qualify under the scheme after succeeding at the provisional stage.

Despite this, City and Capital Hotels, a Johnson Fry scheme looking for £3 million to buy and run small London hotels, received provisional clearance from the local inspector even though its prospectus clearly states that "there will not usually be a restaurant" or other "ancillary services which increase tariffs substantially".

se do not qualify under the Business Expansion Scheme. The problem is that the income received from letting hotel rooms is regarded as licence income and, put simply, if this income is substantial - generally reckoned to mean if it exceeds 20 per cent of the hotel's total income - it does not qualify under the scheme.

Despite this, City and Capital Hotels, a Johnson Fry scheme looking for £3 million to buy and run small London hotels, received provisional clearance from the local inspector even though its prospectus clearly states that "there will not usually be a restaurant" or other "ancillary services which increase tariffs substantially".

Gulf attack on low oil price

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Ministers from six Gulf oil-producing states, meeting in Riyadh, said that oil prices had dropped to unacceptable levels.

In a statement, the Gulf Co-operation Council said that the situation would only improve through an agreement between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and non-Opec producers on production levels.

The six, led by Saudi Arabia, were meeting at the weekend ahead of next week's full ministerial meeting of Opec in Geneva. The oil market "had deteriorated to an unacceptable level," the statement said.

operation by driving down oil prices.

However, the Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, appear to be prepared to continue with the strategy.

In the statement, the Gulf Council said: "The current situation is harmful to producers inside and outside Opec and also to consumers in the short and long term, so we need to bring together all the efforts of producers inside and outside Opec."

To demonstrate its resolve, Saudi Arabia will announce a Budget today including large cuts in spending.

Table with 2 columns: Bank Name and Base Lending Rate. Includes entries for ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, Citibank Savings, etc.

5 MARCH 1986

ONE WEEK ON...

On 5th March, Nomura International Limited became the first Japanese corporate member of the London Stock Exchange and commenced trading from 9.30am on that day.

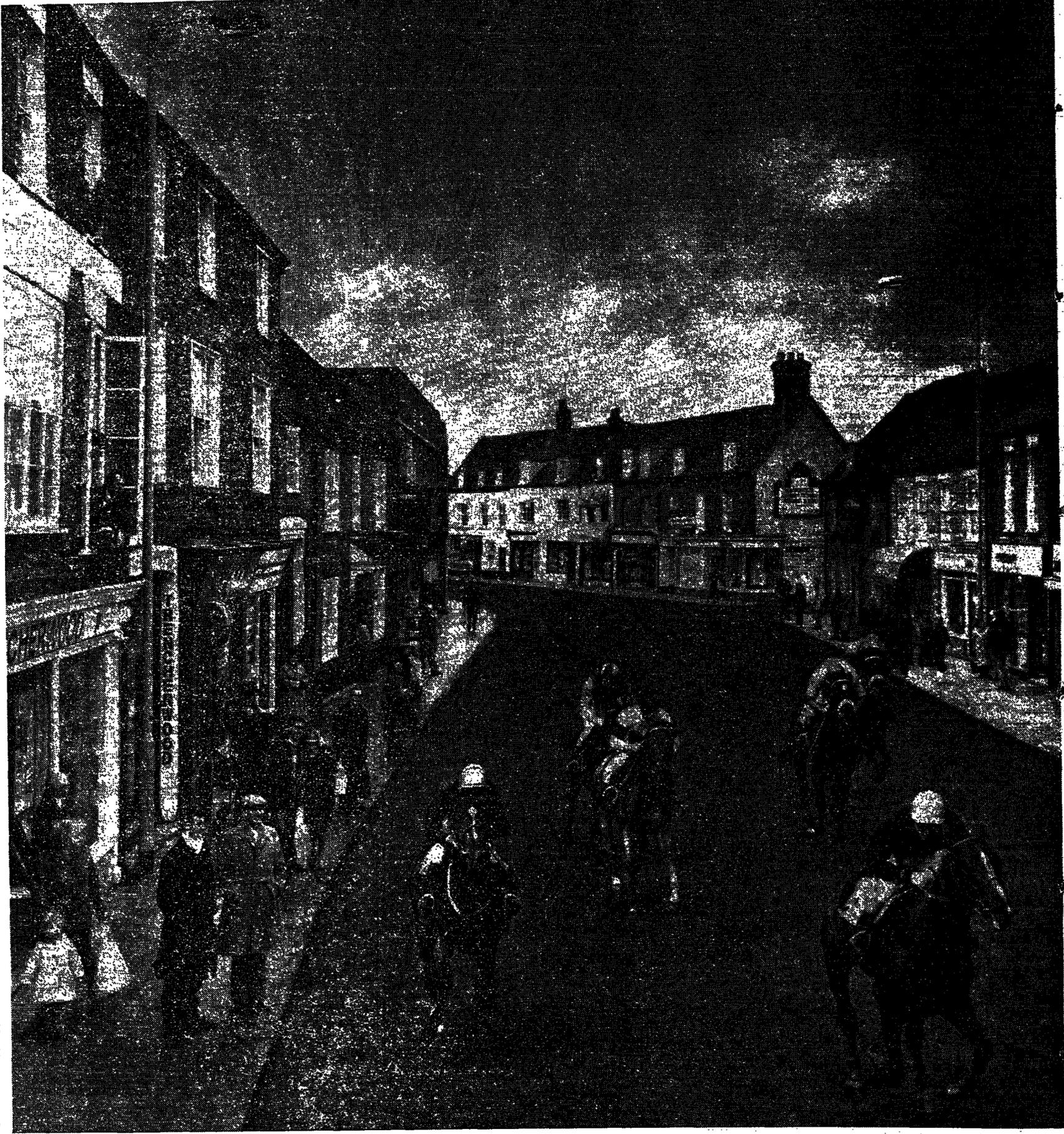
We are pleased to have achieved membership of the Stock Exchange and look forward to making a continuing contribution to the capital markets of the United Kingdom.



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سلة من الذهب

From Today, Live Racing Comes To The High Street.



Today is a big day for Ladbroke. For the first time, betting shops are being allowed to show live coverage of sporting events.

Now our clients can see horses in the ring before the race, snooker stars in mid-frame, even the World Cup in Mexico. All as it happens.

We can offer customers refreshments, too (sorry, no alcohol) and a chance to sit down in comfort.

With over 1500 shops in the UK and by far the biggest share of the market, Ladbroke are more than ready for the changes.

We've already invested in the most modern communication and computer technology.

From our control centre at Harrow we've laid down a land-line to all our shops.

Electronic showboards and banks of TV monitors are already in place, alongside snack bars or vending machines. (In our larger shops you'll also find waitresses.)

Through our involvement in satellite television we'll even have the facility to beam in races from abroad. (Handy in the kind of bad weather we've been having recently.)

We believe we're several years ahead of our rivals in these developments.

No-one else has our operating experience

abroad. We own over 800 betting shops in Belgium and take the lion's share of the market.

Last year we bought a race course in America. When legislation allows off-track betting, we'll be there ready for the off.

Of course, racing is just one of three core businesses that have made Ladbroke one of Britain's top 100 companies.

Our Hotels and Property divisions are also making major contributions.

But, today, it's racing that's in the news.

And no-one is better placed to take advantage of that news, than Ladbroke.

Ladbroke. The Far From Leisurely Leisure Group.

One of a series of advertisements from Ladbroke Group PLC

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GILT-EDGED

Bears should beware the Ides of March

Take the money and run? Blimey O'Reilly, no way. It is a fair translation of the traders' more crisply expressed vernacular. This market is going to the moon and beyond, they chant in Jonathans'; buy until May, then go away.

The traders, of course, are fixated purely by price movements. Such elemental simplicity stands in refreshing contrast to the tortuous and protracted nature of last week's co-ordinated moves across the West to cut rates.

True, Operation Discount Rate has succeeded so far, with one notable exception. But it has not been easy. Is there scope for a second round of cuts?

The West German experience is salutary. In outline, cheaper money should have appealed both to the ruling Christian Democrat party, after its disagreeable experience in the Schleswig-Holstein local elections, and to the policy makers. Dismal February jobless data kept unemployment at 10.4 per cent of the workforce. On the surface, price stability looked assured as February inflation hit an 18-year low of 0.7 per cent.

But this is only part of the story. West Germany was already heading for its highest real growth before the discount rate cuts, at about 4 per cent in real terms. Lower oil prices should put the equivalent of some DM10 billion into the pockets of West German consumers, just

ahead of tax cuts worth roughly the same amount, scheduled for later this year.

The quickening pace of West German expansion shows up in the January output numbers - up 2.4 per cent - and in the rising trend for short-term rates over the past fortnight. With the fiscal stance easing, any move to cut rates as well would automatically look inflationary to the Germans, who cultivate a serious approach.

Hardly surprising, then, that the West Germans chose to cut the discount rate in possibly the most ill-tempered manner conceivable. The discount rate itself was trimmed, but the Bundesbank also announced a contraction in the amount of credit available for rediscount in May. The Lombard rate, lynch-pin of the whole West German monetary system, was left unchanged, widening the differential between discount and Lombard rate to its widest point for 40 years. And the Lombard rate is key, because it is market determined.

After being bullied by the world's press, the West Germans bowed to pressure and cut their rates. But privately, Bundesbank officials suggest that a more neutral approach would have been preferable, had it not been for exchange rate pressure which pushed the mark up by some 3 per cent in less than a month.

The American experience is slightly similar. After Japan and West Germany had cut

their rates, Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve, might have been forgiven for hesitating a fraction before following suit, if only to gauge the foreign exchange reaction.

The dollar weakened markedly against the mark late on Thursday. Essentially, Mr Volcker had achieved his goal - breathing space for the dollar via rate cuts elsewhere. These gave him leeway to maintain an expansionary monetary policy in a bid to stoke up a lagging economy.

But like the rest of the players, Mr Volcker ran out of scratch and time. The February jobless figures came out far worse than expected, exposing the inadequacy of the strategy. Within half an hour of their publication, Mr Volcker had cut the Fed Discount Rate.

A number of points stand out from the world rate-cutting exercise so far. Individual country objections to specific cuts have been swept aside as the joint operation has soldiered on. Meanwhile, the bonds continue to make the running.

Mr Volcker might have preferred to hold out against cuts for longer, but US bond yields had already broken downwards so sharply at the short end of the market that further delay risked invalidating the yield curve. Instead of the yield curve flipping upwards at the long end, the policy-makers changed tack at the short end.

Markets closed for the

weekend, scenting a fresh round of cuts on the way. Already there is talk of another discount rate cut in Japan, and this, if it materialized, would set the ball rolling again. But the differing impact of rate cuts seems bound to stoke up resistance by individual countries, in the absence of specific galvanizing factors, which would give the entire exercise new impetus.

In particular, the bonds need fresh fuel to keep moving. Otherwise, the provocative role they have played in goading central banks into action could be transformed. Heavy selling, inspired by bearish commentaries from, say, Henry Kaufman at Salomon Brothers, could easily turn what has been an agreeable party into a wake.

These factors, in turn, highlight the pivotal role played by London. In the last month, gilt yields have fallen by nearly 100 basis points, taking the bulk of maturities well into single-figure return country. Not only has the old bogey of the 10 per cent yield barrier been, temporarily at least, dispelled; the gilt plays in London has been fundamental in igniting the world surge in fixed-interest stock prices.

In a perfect world, London would now be preparing to make substantive rate cuts. One or two points looks to be well within the range of possibility. In January, rates were pushed up by 1 point to 12½ per cent as part of the sterling defence programme. Since

then, a run of good figures on inflation, PSBR and money supply have created the impression that key components in the Chancellor's strategy are performing in line with expectations.

This argument is susceptible to considerable elaboration. In contrast to New York, where extension premiums narrowed in the bonds run, London has lived for some time under the cosh of an inverted yield curve, legacy of the January 1985 sterling crisis. The steepness of inversion has increased during the February rally, so that gilt yields of about 9.8 per cent compare with money rates of about 12 per cent.

London has played a very cautious game so far, and refused to cut rates, while gilts have rushed ahead. But traders are now starting to enthuse over the short end of the gilt market where, it is alleged, a double play exists. Not only will short gilt yields fall, as British rates are cut, but the United Kingdom's good house-keeping record allows scope for the shape of the yield curve to alter from sharply negative to neutral or even mildly positive.

Vogue stocks to buy on this argument are the longer dated convertibles which could really scream ahead, if the argument holds. And substantive rate cuts would enable London to take the initiative in the global exercise.

All these points give the next set of money supply

figures an added importance. Good figures would consolidate Britain's improved reputation for capable economic management, and pave the way for cuts this week, and perhaps also the following week, at Budget time.

Poor figures at this juncture would be simply embarrassing, since they would imply that Britain was incapable of following the US, the Japanese and the West Germans in the joint project. The bond play in London, which has been highly exuberant, would also be threatened, since doubt yet again would be cast on Government data as a guide to policy implementation. Hopes of a more normal yield curve would be deferred yet again.

Even more embarrassing would be a poor set of money supply figures, followed by cuts imposed willy-nilly.

But best estimates must be for a rate cut this week, after reasonable money numbers, and the hint of further cuts at Budget time. Policy makers know too that the Ides of March looms. They have no plans presumably to allow themselves to be savaged by the bears.

Horace supplies an appropriate quip, in the Epistles. Vade, vale, cave ne litibus mandataque frangas, he writes. Roughly translated, this means don't drop the ball at 2.30 tomorrow afternoon.

Christopher Dunn
Orion Royal Bank



Ann Green: fighting a battle to attract the small investor

Stock Exchange takes a gamble on Manchester

By Cliff Fekham

If British Telecom gave the public a taste for buying shares, Miss Ann Green is determined to make sure that the appetite is well served.

Miss Green, the first woman general manager to be appointed by the Stock Exchange, is fighting a battle to attract the small investor to the stock market and looks like winning.

Her territory is northern England where cities once boasted lively trading floors but which have since passed into obscurity along with the local corn exchange, leaving behind a stockbroking community fast being overshadowed by the creation of super-groups centred on the City's Square Mile.

Those brokers rely on local clients for the bulk of their business, unlike the big London firms with lucrative institutional contacts.

Now, in a bold gamble, Manchester has opened its own share shop, a ground floor frontage once used as a banking hall, to draw in passers-by and, it is hoped, break down the stock market's mystique.

The shop doubles as an administrative centre for the northern unit of the Stock Exchange, the umbrella body which takes in 300 stockbrokers from around 30 firms stretching from Bangor to Newcastle.

The offices will be officially opened tomorrow by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who cannot fail to be impressed by the way brokers in the north are gearing up for the arrival of the big bang.

The commission war which will come in with the revolution in the City is bound to test the long-standing relationship between provincial brokers and clients who may be wooed by the big banks.

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The share shop has been attracting more than 100 people a day since its opening two months ago. They range from the merely curious to the committed professionals taking advantage of the convenient facilities.

The informal and relaxed atmosphere is more reminiscent of the local library. Trained assistants are available to give information when needed.

Miss Green said: "No one knows how hard local firms are going to be hit by the changes about to take place in the market. Are we going to see a share shop in the local Barclays Bank, for instance?"

"So it was essential to let people around know what the market is all about."

"We have been amazed at the inquiries we have received. It is hard to say whether they are being turned into clients, but the signs look extremely encouraging and it is probably only a matter of time before we have a dealer in the office full time," she added.

A committee of 12 runs the northern unit - four are full council members. It is considering the results of the Manchester experiment before deciding whether to open similar offices in other cities in the North.

Mr Alan Kitchin, a partner in Staschiff, Todd and Hodgson, and chairman of the northern unit, said: "We are glad we managed to get this off the ground nearly a year before the big bang."

"So far the results have exceeded our best expectations," he added.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Continental Microwave, CVD Inc, Parker-Knoll, Shandwick, Yarow. Final: Antofagasta Holdings, Low & Bonar, Persimmon, Picom, Ramoness Sims and Jeffrey, T&S Stores, Transport Development.

TOMORROW - Interim: Fletcher Challenge, Framlington, Microfilm Reprographics. Final: Candover Investments, De Beers, Edinburgh Fund Managers, Federated Housing, Hongkong & Shanghai Banking, Kleinfelder, Benson, Louisa, Novo Industri AS (fourth quarter), Pentos, Robinson Brothers (Tydes Green), Tyne Toss Television.

WEDNESDAY - Interim: Bejan Group, Consolidated Gold Fields, Coronation Systems, Lenz, A&J Mackenzie Group, Old Court International Reserves, Tweeddale United Cellulose. Final: BTR, Co-

THURSDAY - Interim: Bridport-Gundy, British Telecommunications (third quarter), Harrison's Malaysian Plantations Berhad (third quarter), Fleete Appleyard Group, BBA Group, British Assets Trust, Camellia Investments, Cattle's (Holdings), Ericsson (Telefonaktiebolaget LM), General Mining Union Corp (dividend), Jaguar, New Darin Oil Trust, Royal Dutch Petroleum, Sandvik, Shell Transport and Trading, System Designers.

FRIDAY - Interim: Dunton Group, Process Systems (expected March 17). Final: Ansbacher (Henry), Invergordon Distillers, Sintrom, Sater (amended).

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money...

Table with columns: No., Company, Year price or less. Lists various companies under categories like ELECTRICALS, BUILDINGS AND ROADS, INDUSTRIALS A-D, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUNDAY. Shows dividend amounts for various companies.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

UNDATED table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted) ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end March 27. Settlement day April 1. Settlement day, April 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

BREWERIES

Table of brewery stocks including 42.0000 Smith St, 11.0000, 2.227.10, etc.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table of buildings and roads stocks including 40.7000 Aberdeen Const, 2.700000, etc.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table of finance and land stocks including 48.2000 Aldermouth, 32.0000, etc.

FOODS

Table of food stocks including 1.072.000 ASDA-APT, 2.220.000, etc.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table of hotels and caterers stocks including 3.175.000 Grand Mer, 411, etc.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table of industrial stocks including 100.0000 A&A, 310, etc.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table of cinema and TV stocks including 28.2000 Anglo TV, 210, etc.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table of drapery and stores stocks including 18.0000 Asquith, 310, etc.

ELECTRICALS

Table of electrical stocks including 63.0000 AD Elect, 313, etc.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

E-K

Table of stocks under E-K category including 21.0000 Eastern Prod, 280, etc.

L-R

Table of stocks under L-R category including 2.057.000 LHM, 24, etc.

S-Z

Table of stocks under S-Z category including 6.120.000 S. Thy, 280, etc.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div %.

INSURANCE

Table of insurance stocks including 618.0000 Abbey Life, 220, etc.

LEISURE

Table of leisure stocks including 5.877.000 Bar & WA, 110, etc.

MINING

Table of mining stocks including 281.0000 Anglo Am, 214, etc.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table of motor and aircraft stocks including 107.0000 Alford, 100, etc.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Table of newspaper and publisher stocks including 49.0000 News, 81, etc.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000. Claims required for +47 points. Claimants should ring 0254-55272.

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OIL

Table of oil stocks including 307.0000 Anglo, 100, etc.

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Table of overseas trader stocks including 11.0000 Anglo, 100, etc.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT

Table of paper, printing, and advertising stocks including 12.0000 Alford, 100, etc.

PROPERTY

Table of property stocks including 40.0000 Alford, 100, etc.

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Table of shipping stocks including 120.0000 Anglo, 100, etc.

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Table of shoes and leather stocks including 10.0000 Anglo, 100, etc.

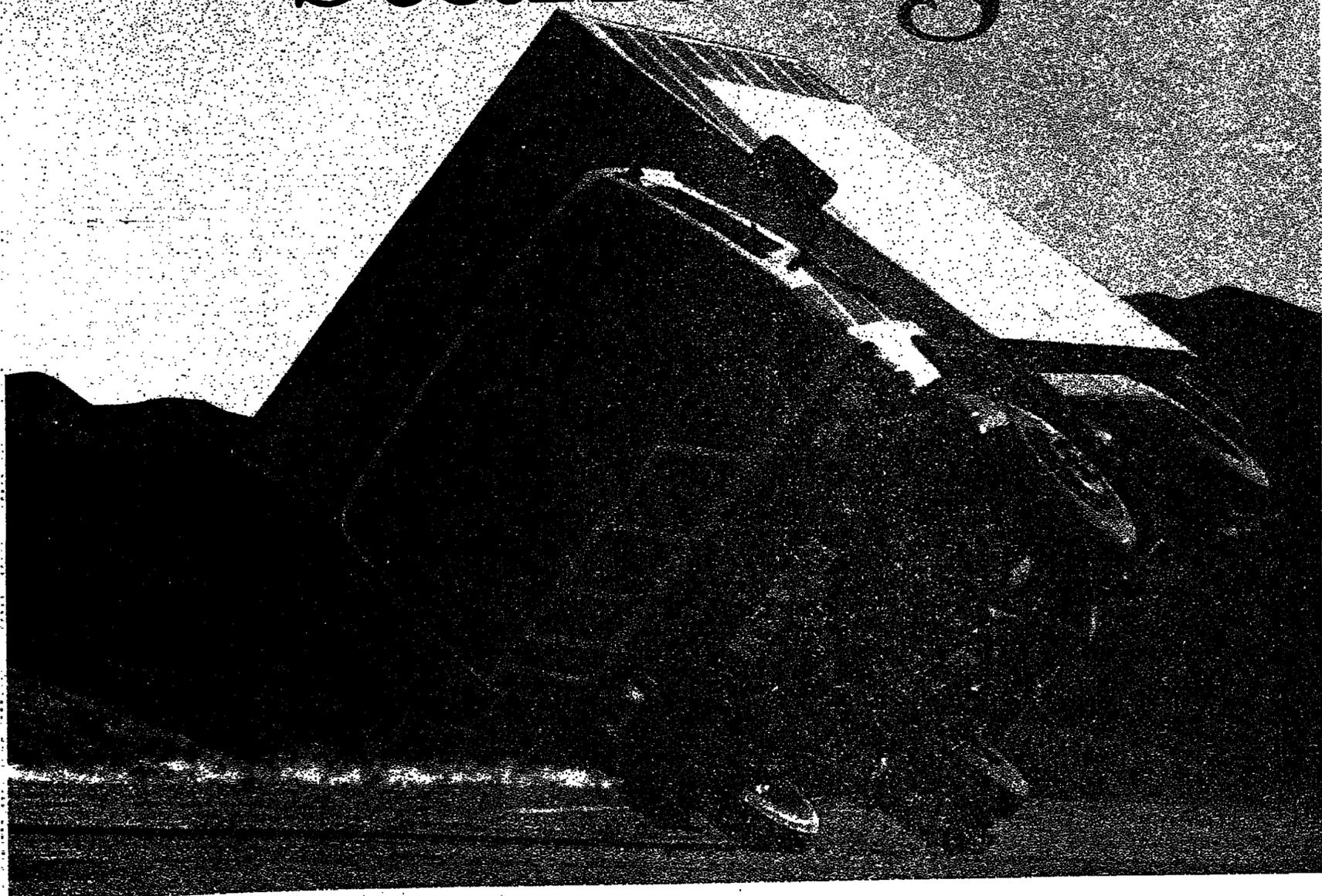
TEXTILES

Table of textile stocks including 50.0000 Anglo, 100, etc.

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Table of tobacco stocks including 1.000.000 Anglo, 100, etc.

Leyland leaves other trucks standing.



In January and February of 1986 Leyland Trucks registered more trucks in Britain than any other manufacturer.

Last year they exported trucks worth £77 million to Abu Dhabi, Zaire and 49 countries in between.

In 1980 Leyland Trucks invested £62 million in a brand new production plant and an R & D facility that pioneered the use of

computers in truck design.

And in the past six years they have launched no less than 14 new models ranging from 6 tonnes to 250 tonnes.

All of which explains why, on average, over one million pounds worth of Leyland trucks are sold every working day.

Leyland Trucks

THE TIMES
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April 10 1986

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Merrydown plans health drive for a fitter future

The briskest trade at the USM exhibition last week was seen at the Merrydown stall where the finance director, Mr Mike O'Driscoll, was extending his famous hospitality to all comers.

Merrydown, which is based in Horsham, West Sussex, produces vintage quality ciders. The company started life in the early 1950s, deriving its name from the chairman's house.

Heavy duty increases in the Macmillan era nearly strangled the fledgling, limiting growth for many years. It was only in 1976, when the company reintroduced vintage cider equivalent to a table wine strength, which placed the products at the top end of the vintage cider market, that profit growth was resumed.

The company was a founder member of the USM, making its debut in 1981. Since then it has invested heavily in vintage cider brewing capacity.

Profit growth has been dramatic, moving from £200,000 in 1981 to £1.3 million in the year to March 1985. Poor summer weather will limit progress in the current year, although the mild autumn was beneficial for sales.

The real interest in the company in the next two years

lies in its plans for diversification.

Merrydown has for many years produced a range of vinegars and health foods as a byproduct of cider producing, which are marketed under the Martlet label.

These make a small contribution to sales through health group outlets but the group is launching a major marketing campaign to extend sales through the supermarket chains. If successful, this could substantially broaden the product base of the company and make a significant impact on profits.

Elsewhere the USM exhibition was notable more for the sponsors promoting their services, including a posse of accountants, stockbrokers and public relations consultants.

The exhibition is therefore more valuable for a company looking to float itself on the USM or graduate from the OTC than for investors hoping to learn of opportunities available for placing their funds.

Most sponsors did, however, indicate a continuing healthy flow of new issues in the pipeline despite the much quieter start to the new issues this year.

Interim figures are due tomorrow from Microfilm Re-

prographics. This is a microfilming bureau providing standard microfilm archive services and the more glamorous computer output microfiche recorded directly from floppy discs.

The company was founded by a stockbroker, Mr John Redmond in 1969 on £1,000 capital and has grown to a market capitalization of £35 million.

Floated on the USM in 1981, it hit trouble shortly afterwards with the loss of two major contracts but management changes implemented after this disaster have left the company stronger than ever before.

Microfilm is increasingly used as a cheap and efficient means of information storage and retrieval, while the dramatic growth in the use of computer-stored information, especially in the financial services sector, has led to explosive demands in the market for microfiche recording services.

Substantial investment by the company has given it a technological lead over many of its competitors.

Further technological developments in the pipeline include colour microfiche which will open up undeveloped markets such as newspapers

and museums. Electronic transmission from microfiche will also be available shortly.

The company has undertaken three major acquisitions over the last 18 months, two in the highly profitable computer output division, buying out in-house microfilm bureaux from RHM and a former Unilever subsidiary.

The integration of these two companies has yet to be fully reflected on the bottom line but tomorrow's figures should see the first fruits.

For the full year to June the market is looking for more than £1.5 million compared with last year's £580,000, which on a low tax charge would give earnings per share of 18p.

At 420p this leaves the shares on a demanding price earnings ratio of 23 but with further excellent progress for 1987 in prospect the shares remain a very sound investment.

Investors interested in this area should also look at Microgen, the other quoted microfilming bureau.

At 330p the shares are on a historic tight earnings ratio of 20 times but the prospective for 1986 falls to 13 times and the shares look good value.

A significant change is due to take place later this year in the United Kingdom's Trade Mark Law. For the first time companies and individuals operating in service industries will be entitled to the protection of a registration at the Trade Marks Registry.

Until now such protection has only been available to those in trade or industry. This is because the Trade Marks Act 1938 followed the pattern established by previous legislation in stipulating that a trade mark could only be registered in respect of goods.

For a valid registration it was necessary for the registered owner to have at least a bona fide intention at the outset to apply the proposed registration to nominated goods for the purpose of indicating a connection in the course of trade between himself and those goods.

It was equally important that, once registration had been achieved, use of the mark on those goods should continue.

The emphasis laid on goods in this way meant that although the company name, logo or trading style of, for example, an airline is as important to it as those of an aircraft manufacturer, it was only the latter who could register them as trademarks.

The same would apply to a publisher and to a golf course proprietor as opposed to a golf club manufacturer.

Contrary to popular belief the registration of a company name at Companies House (or of a business name at the old Business Names Registry) did

not provide any protection in this regard at all.

If, therefore, a service business found itself threatened by a competitor using a name or other trading style similar to its own it had to resort to the common law action of "passing off" in order to stop such unfair trading.

"Passing off" is a civil wrong established by case law over many years which, put at its simplest, provides a remedy for any business or organization which can show that it has established a reputation in a particular name or trading style and that the activities complained of are likely to cause confusion among potential customers.

A passing off action is frequently expensive and uncertain as to outcome because it entails proving to the court that disinterested outsiders do recognize the reputation to have developed and are likely to be confused by the competitor's activities.

Manufacturers, retailers and others dealing in goods could frequently reduce or avoid these difficulties by relying upon a registered trade mark.

Not only did this enable them to avoid the necessity of proving their reputation every

time they wished to prevent a competitor taking an unfair advantage, but it also enabled anyone starting a business or introducing a new product to check whether a particular trading style or brand name had already been registered by someone else.

Businesses in the service industries have occasionally tried to secure some protection by the artificial device of registering a trade mark in respect of goods which had some connection with the service being offered.

Thus airlines sometimes registered a mark to cover tickets, luggage tags and flight bags, and banks might seek registration in respect of paper goods such as cheque books.

Although such registrations may have acted as a deterrent to potential copiers it was generally thought that they were of doubtful validity for the simple reason that, to take a bank as an example, what it sold, and was paid for, was the banking service which it provided and not the cheque books which were issued as part of that service.

A recent High Court decision permitting registration of the name and colour scheme of the Visa bank card has only slightly modified the position. For some years now it has

been clear that the United Kingdom has been falling out of step with the large number of industrial countries which accept applications for marks in respect of services as well as goods.

This has caused particular concern in the context of a proposed European trade mark and the United Kingdom candidacy for selection as the location of a proposed European Trade Mark Registry.

A first attempt to reform the law by means of a private Bill introduced in the House of Lords failed when Parliament was dissolved in 1983.

That Bill had originally been opposed by the Government, largely on the grounds that the Trade Mark Registry could not cope with the extra work load which would be involved if service marks were introduced.

By the time a new Bill was introduced in the House of Commons later in 1983, that opposition had evaporated. However, when it subsequently passed into law as the Trade Marks (Amendment) Act 1984, it was announced that the Trade Mark Registry would not be ready to accept applications until 1987.

The starting date has now been brought forward to October 1 this year.

The professions are equally interested and the relaxation of the control of advertising in many of them will have made them more aware of this change in the law.

Chris Ryan
The author is a partner in the solicitors Norton, Rose, Batehall & Roche.

Isabel Unsworth

Service groups set to take their marks

A significant change is due to take place later this year in the United Kingdom's Trade Mark Law. For the first time companies and individuals operating in service industries will be entitled to the protection of a registration at the Trade Marks Registry.

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Law Report March 10 1986

Guidance on rent review clauses

The British Gas Corporation v Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd. Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor. [Judgment given February 6].

The Vice-Chancellor gave guidance in the Chancery Division in construing rent review clauses in a lease.

In the absence of clear words requiring the rent review provision (as opposed to all provisions as to rent) to be disregarded, and in the absence of special circumstances, it was proper to give effect to the underlying commercial purpose of a rent review clause and to construe the words so as to give effect to that purpose by requiring future rent reviews to be taken into account in fixing the open market rental under the hypothetical letting.

Mr John Colyer, QC and Mr K. Reynolds for the plaintiff; Mr Michael Barnes, QC and Mr D. Elvin for the defendant.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said the case raised the question whether a valuer appointed to fix a new rent of premises under a rent review clause in a lease ought to take into account the fact that the lease in question contained provisions for further rent reviews in the future.

A common formula in rent review provisions was that a valuer should assume a hypothetical letting of the premises on the open market containing the same provisions as the actual lease "other than as to rent".

The question was whether such a rent exclusion provision meant that the valuer was to ignore the fact that the actual lease contained provisions for future rent review.

In the present case the plaintiff had been granted a lease of office premises for a term of 35 years from March 25, 1980, the yearly rent being £1,500,000 or such other rent as might be substituted therefor.

The second schedule provided that in the event of a landlord's review notice, the review date was to be the higher of (i) the yearly rent payable immediately before such review date and (ii) the rack rental value at the relevant review date. The review dates were to be at five yearly intervals.

The rack rental value was to mean "such rent as may be agreed or determined... to be the best yearly rent at which the demised premises could reasonably be expected to let in the open market by a willing landlord to a willing tenant for a term equal to the term hereby granted by means of a lease containing the same provisions (other than as to the yearly rent) as are herein contained...".

At March 25, 1985, the parties having failed to agree a new rent, an independent valuer had to be appointed, and the question was whether, in assessing the rack rental value, he should assume a hypothetical letting on terms which included five-yearly rent reviews.

Counsel agreed that there were three possible constructions of the rent exclusion provision:

- (1) Ignore all provisions relating to rent in a lease.
- (2) Ignore those provisions which related to the quantification of rent, payable immediately before the relevant review date as well as the provisions for future rent reviews.
- (3) Ignore the rent actually payable before the review date

only, that is, take into account the provisions for future reviews of the rent.

A literal construction under (1) would mean a wholly unrealistic task for the valuer. Under (2) and (3) some limitation into the words used had to be implied, and for that one had first to try to discover the underlying purpose of the rent review provisions so as to give effect to that purpose.

The general purpose of a provision for rent review was to enable a landlord to obtain from time to time a market rental which the premises would command if let on the same terms on the open market at the review dates, and in the absence of clear words or surrounding circumstances a lease should be construed so as to give effect to that basic purpose.

In the present case therefore, the rack rental value of the premises ought to be fixed on the basis that the hypothetical letting was on the terms of the actual lease excluding only the rent actually quantified and payable before the review date but including the provisions for five-yearly rent review.

Recent cases had been on construction of the particular lease, but they did disclose a marked difference of approach to the construction of rent review clauses.

In those circumstances, his Lordship felt free to adopt what he considered was the correct approach to rent exclusion provisions:

- (a) No literal effect could be given to words requiring all provisions as to rent to be disregarded.
- (b) Other clear words requiring the rent review provisions (as opposed to all provisions as to rent) to be disregarded must be given effect to, however wayward the result.
- (c) Subject to (b), in the absence of special circumstances, it was proper to give effect to the underlying commercial purpose of a rent review clause and to construe it so as to give effect to that purpose by requiring future rent reviews to be taken into account in fixing the open market rental under the hypothetical letting.

Such an approach might seem close to seeking to lay down mechanistic rules of construction as opposed to principles of construction. But there was an urgent need to produce certainty in the field of rent review.

Landlords, tenants and their valuers needed to know what was the right basis of valuation without recourse to lawyers, let alone the courts. The question could not be left to turn on the terms of each lease without the basic approach being certain.

A declaration would be made in the present case to the effect that the rack rental value to be determined by an independent valuer would mean the best yearly rent at which the premises could reasonably be expected to let on the open market for a term equal to the term granted by means of a lease containing the same provisions as the lease (other than the amount of rent actually payable at the relevant review date) and in particular containing like provisions for the review of the rent as were contained in the lease and upon the other express assumptions set out.

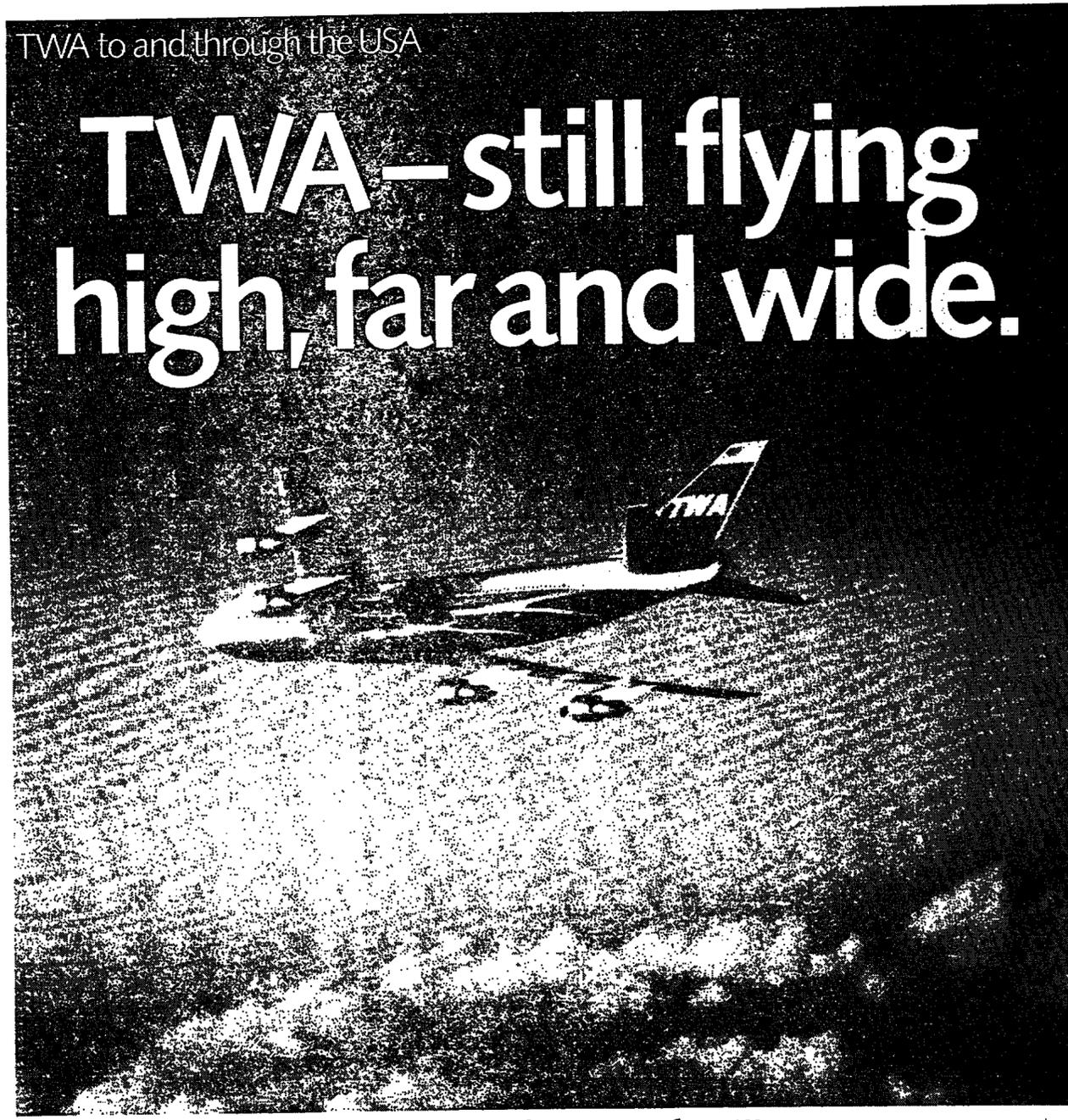
Solicitors: Mr C.E.H. Tavis, Coward Chance.

Defence of duress

Regina v Willer

Duress was capable of amounting to a defence to a charge of reckless driving when a motorist mounted a pavement to drive away from a confrontation with a gang of youths who were shouting "I'll kill you", and one of whom had got into the car and was fighting with a passenger in the rear seat and was still there, fighting, when the motorist drove to a police station to make a complaint.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Garland and Mr Justice Ognall) so held on February 25 when allowing the appeal of Mark Edward Willer, against his conviction on April 16, 1985 at St Albans Crown Court (Mr Assistant Recorder M. J. Curwen and a jury), which followed a change of plea after the trial judge's ruling that no defence of necessity was available to this motorist.



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UNLISTED SECURITIES

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Table with multiple columns listing investment trusts, including company names, prices, and other financial data.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with multiple columns listing financial trusts, including company names, prices, and other financial data.

RUGBY UNION: SPLUTTERING PROGRESS IN JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL CUP

Cup holders take bumpy road

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

London Welsh 10 Bath 18

Like two limousines taken out of the garage after a damp winter, last year's finalists motored through Saturday's quarter-final of the John Player Special Cup at Old Deer Park, spluttering as they searched for that elusive quality, form. It was frustrating for the players and for some 4,000 spectators because conditions were ideal for a running game but it was entirely understandable in the difficult circumstances clubs have endured of late.



Forward held back: Egerton, of Bath, battles to break free (Photographer Stewart)

The cup holders won deservedly by three tries and two penalty goals to a try and two penalties, but they made life difficult for themselves by missing seven assorted kicks at goal and if one of their tries had been disallowed - which, drawing a parallel with Clive Norling's decision in the Twickenham international the week before, it might have been - the difference would have been barely discernible.

There were times when the quality of Bath's forwards gave every indication that they would take command. In the absence of Collins and Watkins, the injured Welsh line-out men, they dominated that phase of the game and every so often they put together some delightful forward drives, with Simpson and Redman inevitably in the van.

But the Welsh tackling never deserted them and, importantly this season, their set scrum held despite the absence of Bradley with a calf injury. They even managed to steal a last-gasp try after having once been pushed off their own ball, and the scrum provided a focal point for the Exiles' efforts.

Inevitably though Bath were going forward so they had the majority of the scrum feeds and when the Welsh half-backs relieved pressure they only returned the ball to touch, a point of Bath's strength. And, whatever the fallibility of Bath's back play

to retreat sufficiently far, Simpson scored.

Hill was involved, too, in an incident immediately preceding Bath's second try. London Welsh held Bath's secondary shove at a five-metre scrum but were forced to wheel; Price came charging in to hack at the ball which was in Bath's back row and was promptly sent reeling backwards by Hill.

Evidently Selwyn Trevithick, the referee, shared Hill's view that Price had no business to be there but it is not for the scrum half to take the law into his own hands. As it was Egerton scored at that scrum; had Price intervened successfully I imagine Bath would have received a penalty try which, even on an off day, Barnes would have converted. Had Mr Trevithick felt so inclined he might have penalised Hill for punching

and disallowed the try. Hill is much too good and intelligent a player to get involved in this kind of way and, equally to the point, one day he may come up against a side capable of exacting a fearful retribution. As it was he made the game safe when a long pass from a scrum gave Martin the chance to send Swift over.

SCORERS: London Welsh: Try: Evans; Penalties: Price (2). Bath: Try: Egerton; Penalties: Barnes (2).

LONDON WELSH: A Martin; A Standa; D Fouhy; G Lewis; C Reed (captain); C Price; M Douglas; T Jones; B Light; J Davies; T Waldron; E Lewis; G Llewellyn; J Evans; S Page.

BATH: C Martin; A Swift; S Halliday; S Palmer (captain); B Trevithick; Barnes; R Hill; G Chiochi; G Dawe; R Lee; P Simpson; J Morrison; N Redman; R Spurrell; D Egerton. Referee: S Trevithick (Cornwall)

Scots come out of the cold at last Gloucester's debt to Hannaford

By Nicholas Keith

Northampton 6 London Scottish 11

There were signs on Saturday that winter was maintaining its icy grip on both teams, although the fourth round John Player Special Cup tie was played in relatively warm sunshine. London Scottish deserved their place in the quarter-final against Gloucester because in the cluttered scrum they showed a glimmer of chance, they were marginally more organized.

Northampton must regret that Johnson, their kicker, went down with influenza. Woodrow, the captain, and Larkin missed two penalties apiece and Sharpe was understandably unsure as Johnson's replacement.

However, the sterility of Northampton's tactics was most clearly shown at a series of three tap penalties in the first half. They tried to build on their lead by bulldoze over the Scottish line from short range without once spreading the play. The players were frustrated by their mistakes and by the futile tackle law which leads to so many stop-

pages if referees play to the rules, as they must.

The Scots made life surprisingly difficult for themselves. Their scrumgame kept Northampton under constant pressure, although Pearce, the England prop, helped his hooker to one heel against the head. After a disjointed first half, the visitors were 4-3 up at the interval with a try by Watt, after Hastings had made the overlap, to a penalty by Larkin. In the second half Irvine kicked a penalty for the Scots, then Woodrow hit a post and Larkin narrowed the gap with a penalty.

The match-winning try in the 35th minute raised a few queries but Batten appeared to ground the ball before he was bundled into touch by Larkin. Once again, Hastings had timed his run perfectly to make the extra man.

SCORERS: Northampton: Penalties: Larkin 2; London Scottish: Try: Watt; Penalties: Hastings (2). NORTHAMPTON: D Woodrow (captain); N Green; P Larkin; B Clarke; J Cubitt; J Sherwin; G Elmore; H Woodrow; D Framlingham; G Pearce; A Reason; V Cannon; I Lymer; G Poole; J White. LONDON SCOTTISH: Hastings: L Batten; L Remick; S Irvine; B Watt; N Crosswell; A Cusack; M Watt; J Kerr; J Crosswell; G Gougeon; J Macdonald; D Tosh; S Austin; J Mackin (captain). Referee: R Harding (Devon)

By Gordon Allan

Saracens 6 Gloucester 13

The Gloucester supporters did not feel it safe to start chanting until the last minute of injury time at Southgate on Saturday. That was when Hannaford scored try from a typical little break by League and Gloucester moved into the quarter-final round of the John Player Special Cup with a win over Saracens by a try and three penalty goals to two penalties.

There was not much for anybody to chant about at any time. The pitch was more brown than green, with straw still in evidence, and the rugby too was dull coloured. You could almost see the players' earnings in the fundaments all over again after their recent inaction. The pace was rather deliberate, the execution laboured.

Gloucester won the forward battle by as narrow a margin as they won the match. They owed a lot to Orwin in the lineouts and they looked stronger in the mauls, sometimes turning Saracens and wresting the ball from them. This meant that Hannaford and Hamlin had an easier

afternoon at halfback than Steadman and Holman.

Behind the scrum the defences kept each other under lock and key and it was a surprise when Hannaford scored his try. There was a missed tackle in that movement. But he deserved to score. He and Ford had been shoved into touch at the corner a minute or two before.

Tim Smith kicked three penalties out of five for Gloucester and Laurence Smith two out of five for Saracens, making the score 9-6, with 15 minutes left. It was Laurence Smith who landed the winning penalty against Waterloo in the previous round of the cup. One of Tim Smith's penalties was scored by a punch thrown by Pattinson, the Saracens second row forward. It was not the only unpleasant incident in the game.

SCORERS: Saracens: Penalties: Smith (2); Gloucester: Try: Hannaford; Penalties: Smith (3). SARACENS: G Hancock; L Smith; C Baboyev; J Buckton; D McLagan; D Dunne; J Dwyer; J Taylor; R Roberts; A Key; M Pattinson; A Whelan; R Khan; J Adams. GLoucester: G Hamlin (captain); P Taylor; R McLean; T Ford; M Hamlin; M Hannaford; P Jones; K White; R Pascoe; J Sack; J Orwin; J Brain; M Longstaff; M Tague. Referee: I Butlerwell (East Midlands)

Leaders given a fight Final omens augur well for Kent

By Bryan Stiles

Kent 16 Gloucestershire 3

The rustic of spring in what was historically a carefree game of England has prompted a quickening in the pulse of young Kent rugby clubs. On Saturday it also brought a blossoming of talent that carried them into the county championship final for the first time in 59 years.

Victory at Blackheath over an unfamiliar Gloucestershire team by a try, a dropped goal and two penalty goals to a penalty earlier in the season, and as Coventry form the basis of the Warwickshire team, he is optimistic that he can end his rugby career on a winning note.

SCORERS: Kent: Try: Cokell; Dropped Goal: Colver; Penalties: Russell. Gloucestershire: Penalties: Russell. KENT (Blackheath unless stated): G Waterson; J Field; J Wood; J Colver; R Bodenham (captain); D Osborne (Royston Park); M Colver; C Reed (Plymouth); P Eastwood; R Howe; K Butler; D Vaughan; D Hurry; P McEneaney; S Skinner (Hartington); R Chavell (Adams).

together before a game. With more than half their players being drawn from junior clubs it was little wonder.

They fell behind to a neatly taken dropped goal by Colver in the seventh minutes and were never in the hunt. Their forwards could not match the pace and imagination of their opponents.

The accurate Field registered three penalty goals and Cokell scored a determined try to put their captain, Bodenham in an ebullient mood for the final. As his club, Blackheath, beat Coventry earlier in the season, and as Coventry form the basis of the Warwickshire team, he is optimistic that he can end his rugby career on a winning note.

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All his own Warke

By George Ace

Ian Warke, the North full back, with 16 points out of 24, provided the outstanding individual performance of the Ulster Senior Cup, sponsored by Allied Irish Banks. Warke amassed six points through a try and four penalties in the 24-0 rout of Dungannon at Ormeau.

But it was Raymondhill that the crowds flocked to for the semi-finals of the Ulster Schools Challenge Cup. In the forenoon Royal Belfast Academical Institution came from three points behind to defy a strong wind that they had failed to take advantage of in a second first half to defeat Regent House 10-6.

A penalty and a dropped goal by the Irish Schools captain, McCall, gave the holders, Bangor Grammar School, a 6-3 win over Campbell College.

ULSTER SENIOR CUP: First round: Ards 12, Queen's University 3; NISC 24, Dungannon 6; City of Derry 3, Ballymore 3. Second division: Blackburn 12, Leish 7. North Area first division: Fleetwood 20, Lancaster University 12; Moray 21, Rosendale 10. Second division: Wendenham 24, Millom 0.

SOUTH WEST: Basset Table: St Ives 3, Redruth 16; Devon North Table: Padstow 21, Budeford 13. Cornwall Merit Table: Camoore 48, Painslow 16; Hayle 22, Penzance-Newlyn 10. Ch. Matches: Plymouth 16, South Wests Police 32; Morley 23, Exeter 16; Torquay 4, Devon and Cornwall Police 6; Launceston 16, Penryn 13; Exeter University 3; Sidmouth 6; Stranmillis 16; Avon and Somerset Police 12; Chatterham 16; Newdigate 14.

RESULTS FROM THE WEEKEND

THORN EMU COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Same-Place: Kent 16, Gloucestershire 3. Haverhill: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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CRICKET: PITCH CONTAINS SOME HOPE FOR BATSMEN

Early run-out of Slack offsets good work by England's spinners

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

After gaining a first innings lead of 223 in the second Test match here yesterday, the West Indies ran out Slack before he had scored when England batted again.

England's spinners did well to restrict the West Indies to 176 in their first innings but the pitch was good as it will ever be: there was some turn, but the West Indies had no spinner. For their four fast bowlers there was little pace in theory, the conditions gave England's batsmen the chance to regain lost confidence.

Soon after lunch on Saturday the West Indies had looked to be heading for a total of 500, or more if they had wanted. They had been given a flying start by their innings by some wild bowling from Botham, whose first five overs cost 39 runs and were enough to make the rest of the side feel like giving up the ghost.

Although Ellison then bowled his heart out on Saturday morning, it was not until Edmonds and Embury joined forces on Saturday afternoon that the batsmen were kept at anything like full stretch, and by then Richardson was 99 and the West Indies were 200 for one.

Because the West Indian fast bowlers could make something of the pitch, Gower seemed to think that England's must, though what the situation needed was tight control.

With less luck Embury had the luck instead, which was not fair because it was Edmonds's birthday. But the fact that the West Indians were caught in a full day of spin.

Let us not mince words. The batsmen were being deliberately tormented. Edmonds and Embury were unscrupulously using every vicious device in their devious repertoires to make the ball buzz and fizz and they made life impossible for the batsmen in the world. They did so calmly and cynically, their cruel aim to cause mental torture in the batsmen. And they succeeded.

All the helmets and armour in the world were no protection against the well-aimed policies of England's shameless pair. Not even Richardson was able utterly to defy this scourge of the modern game: he was reduced to cutting the ball off his stump, and thus he fell.

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CYCLING: THE HUNGER OF AN IRISHMAN



The man who finished as he started: the victorious Kelly

Fortune smiles on Kelly

Not since the early 1970s when Eddy Merckx was his winning trumped over in Italy next Saturday. He will remain at Nice and prepare for this 180-mile one-day classic that he has yet to win, unlike Merckx, who scored a record seven victories in the event.

LeMond was almost a minute slower while Zimmerman conceded only 27 seconds to maintain his overall second place. The talented Frenchman, Jean-Francois Bernard, took the deserted second place in the time trial but this was only good enough to lift him from ninth to seventh place in the final standings.

Earlier in the day Kelly was surprisingly beaten in a mass-start sprint finish that ended the 63-mile stage from Maastricht. He was overtaken in the final yards by the rapid Spaniard, Alfonso Gutierrez, who scored a similar success over Kelly three weeks ago at Albacete in Spain.

Brown's luck deserts him

Ken Brown's third round of 73, following his opening 68s, dropped him from joint second place to share sixth position in the Doral Eastern Open. Surely the spin should be bowled to tail-enders. The umpire must step in. When a bowler turns the ball sideways and refuses to aim at the batsman surely the umpire must tell him to return to a normal cricket and to try to control the batsman's head off. What is cricket supposed to be about, after all?

McEvoy takes trophy

Peter McEvoy won the Berkhamsed Trophy, one of the few amateur prizes to have previously escaped his grasp, when he overcame Roger Roper at the second extra hole at Berkhamsted on Saturday.

Wigan recover to storm into semis

While St Helens will claim that the gift wrapped interception try by David Stephenson was the turning point of the Wigan's tally of five tries to three, and irresistible second half performance justified the holder's march into the third round of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup with a 24-14 score line.

Sweden sweep through

Sweden, the holders, completed the rout of Denmark when they won their singles yesterday for a 5-0 victory in their Davis Cup world group first round tie. Mats Wilander and Joakim Nystrom brushed aside Michael Tauson and Morten Christensen.

TENNIS

Britain bloom as Bates fills the Mottram gap

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The tennis is better news than the cricket. So it should be, considering the difference between Spanish serving and volleying and West Indian bouncers. But during the past four years of the Davis Cup competition, sponsored by Japan's NEC Corporation, Britain has never been free of anxiety about relegation to a "terrible syndrome", in the words of their captain, Paul Hutchings.

Never, that is, until 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, when they achieved a winning of only two sets. The margin exceeded all reasonable expectations, the crowd again challenged the capacity of Telford's indoor arena and the future looked exciting.

In winning four consecutive ties against weak to middling opposition - Portugal, Switzerland, Israel and Spain - Britain have had their longest run of success since 1978. In the process Jeremy Bates has filled the worrying gap left by Buster Mottram's retirement.

To quote Hutchings again: "We're on a bit of a roll. It could last for a while, too. In the second round (the last eight) Britain will play their eighth consecutive home tie, against Australia, from July 18 to 20. Hutchings and company went to a hurdle on Saturday evening to discuss which surface would best serve their purpose. They reduced the options to grass or the carpet-like Supreme Court that is familiar indoors but, in this case, used outdoors on a temporary platform.

It may be relevant that Britain's last away tie on grass, at Adelaide in 1983, Australia beat them with a day to spare. It may be equally relevant that Sweden, the holders, completed the rout of Denmark when they won their singles yesterday for a 5-0 victory in their Davis Cup world group first round tie.

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St Helens led 10-4 at half time, the result of some fine distribution by Harry Finner, the drive of Roy Haggerty and two brilliant tries by the centres, the Australian, Brett French, and the New Zealander, Mark Ella. The catch through the Wigan defence and scorching pass by Stephenson gave Wigan defence and relying on individual bursts in the first half, got an equal good try from another Australian, Steve Ella, who sold a neat dummy before touching down.

The second half brought a transformation. Wigan roared into combined attack, with the South African substitute forward, De Toit, giving greater purpose to the pack. Ella, the man of the match, gave a slick pass to send Stephenson diving over, and the centre kicked the goal himself to level the score.

Then came a mortifying moment for the St Helens scrum half, Neil Holding. As St Helens attacked on the halfway line, Holding attempted to create a left wing overlap, but his pass was snatched up by a surprised and delighted Stephenson, who romped to the try line pursued by Holding. Stephenson again kicked the goal.

As St Helens wilted Wigan grew in confidence and the swift handling created left wing overlaps for tries from Hampson and Eleri Hanley. St Helens fought back briefly and Pinner and Phil Veivers made a try for the substitute Ian Sharpe but Wigan scored confidently towards their third successive Wembley appearance.

Oldham tackled ferociously to beat Warrington. They trailed 1-6, but two fine tries by Warrall and Foy, and two goals from Warrall gave them a 13-6 win in a bruising cup tie. The outstanding achievement in the second round was by Brasley, of the first division, who held the first division open by beating Northern to a 20-20 draw despite having Hankins sent off. Fleicher got the vital late equalising try.

No armour avails against spin

What can be done to remove this curse from a once beautiful game? For surely Saturday showed us the unacceptable face of cricket. After the wonders of Sabina Park, Jamaica, where we had days of good, clean, vicious fun at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad, we were forced to watch the ugly side of cricket - a full day of spin.

Let us not mince words. The batsmen were being deliberately tormented. Edmonds and Embury were unscrupulously using every vicious device in their devious repertoires to make the ball buzz and fizz and they made life impossible for the batsmen in the world. They did so calmly and cynically, their cruel aim to cause mental torture in the batsmen. And they succeeded.

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FOR THE RECORD

Table with 5 columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists results for various sports including volleyball, basketball, and boxing.

MOTOR RACING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDING: 1. J. Mansoori (Iran), 2. M. Mansoori (Iran), 3. M. Mansoori (Iran), 4. M. Mansoori (Iran), 5. M. Mansoori (Iran).

ROWING

READING: Head of River 1, London University, 2, 12.52; 2, Leam, 13.48; 3, Thames RC, 15.53; 4, London University, 17.42; 5, Reading University, 17.42.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDING

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan recover to storm into semis. While St Helens will claim that the gift wrapped interception try by David Stephenson was the turning point of the Wigan's tally of five tries to three, and irresistible second half performance justified the holder's march into the third round of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup with a 24-14 score line.

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FOOTBALL: FA CUP HOLDERS GO OUT

Referee points West Ham in the direction of Wembley

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

Manchester United..... 0 West Ham United..... 2

The full wrath of Old Trafford was unleashed yesterday afternoon on Brian Stevens. The referee, who preferred to take little decisive action during the tempestuous FA Cup fifth round tie at Upton Park last Wednesday, understandably infuriated a crowd of over 30,000 with two decisions that were to have a significant effect on the outcome of the replay covered live on television.

Firstly awarding a penalty converted by Stewart, in the 54th minute for a slide by Stapleton on Martin that was scarcely noticeable, he ushered West Ham United towards a place in the sixth round. In denying Manchester United a penalty in the following minute for the luckless Stapleton, he effectively closed the door on the Cup holders. West Ham's victory was deserved but nevertheless unsatisfactory.

With Robson and Moran missing through injury, United's new defensive formation had included for a second cup-tie Higgins, whose career was thought to be over two years ago at Everton. With Ron Atkinson flogged as ever to rebuff his lack of United relied once more on spontaneous inspiration, remaining charmingly, if sometimes frustratingly unpredictable.

West Ham, with the benefit of an unchanged team sheet, were better organized. They defended in numbers, were prepared to concede possession in midfield and broke with notable speed through their largely lonely but dangerous front runners, Coates and

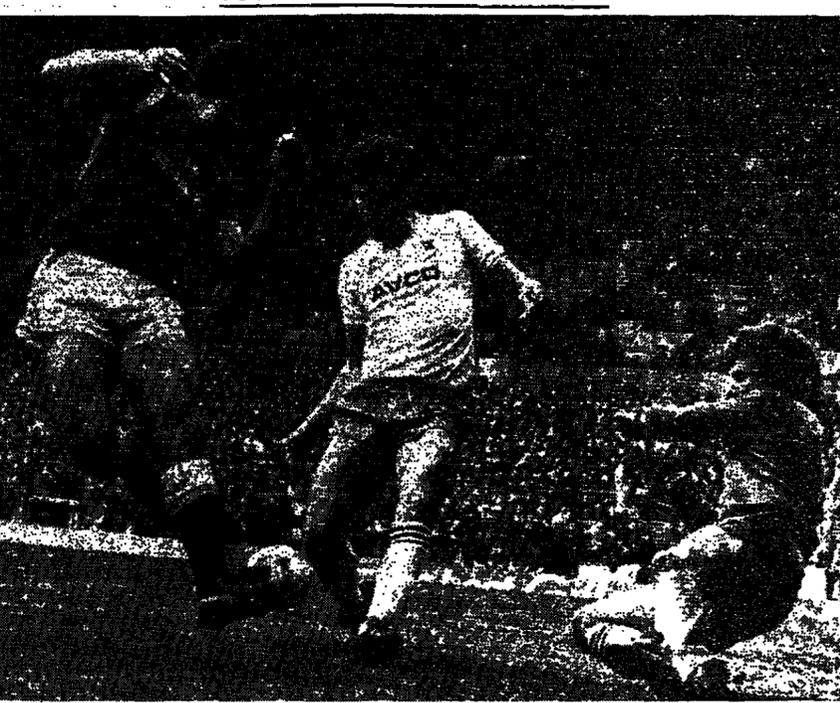
McAvennie. Their strategy was as uncomplicated as it was effective.

United's individual brilliance gave early and glorious promise. The incisive deep runs of Gibson and the probing passes of Strachan were mainly responsible for that and Hughes, lying almost on the goaline, should have given them some tangible reward from McGrath's low cross. Instead, his two stabbed attempts lacked the necessary power.

As United's opening fires turned to embers, West Ham emerged from their cool composure to take the lead in the 18th minute. McGrath, in chasing McAvennie, unnecessarily yielded a corner. Ward took it and, ignoring the taller figures in the middle, picked out Pike some 15 yards out. His clean and accurate header soared over Albiston and under the bar. West Ham protected themselves at times uncomfortably and never more so in the first half than when Parris tripped Strachan, who had been released by Whiteside's delightful through ball and was closing in on the edge of the area. For that ugly offence, Parris was cautioned.

After the interval Parkes covered the holes that appeared in West Ham's defence with a solid shield. He twice denied Hughes, once remarkably from close range and was later fortunate to see Parris, with a faint touch, disturb Stapleton's aim as he came in to meet an Olsen cross that had left the goalkeeper transfixed on his line.

Manchester United: C Turner, M Shearer, A Brown, N Whiteside, G Strachan, G Gibson, J O'Connell, G Strachan, M Hughes, G Parkes, R Stewart, G Parris, A Gale, A Martin, A Dewhurst, M Ward, F Coates, M Moran, C Coates, G Parris. Referee: T B Stevens (Stoke-on-Trent).



Parkes the saviour: the West Ham goalkeeper is in the right place to frustrate Stapleton (left) and rescue his defence

Managers in a telling mood

By David Powell

Brighton..... 0 Southampton..... 2

Two managers with much in common could not have presented more contrasting acts at Saturday's FA Cup quarter-final at the Goldstone Ground. On the one hand was Southampton's Chris Nicholl, keeping a tight rein on his emotions and hardly daring to think he could win the Cup in his first season as a manager. On the other was Chris Cattlin of Brighton, spilling out his disappointment before a reporter had the chance to ask him a question.

Nicholl and Cattlin were 17-year-olds together at Burnley, were not kept on, but ultimately did establish themselves as players. Cattlin, like Nicholl, is in his

first managerial job and is making a good go of it. But their different after-match moods were in keeping with each team's performance. Brighton (and Cattlin) offering greater freedom of expression, Southampton (and Nicholl) unpretentious but efficient. "I tribute to teamwork," Nicholl asserted. "Excellent goals. We worked hard and we fought hard." And Cattlin admired them for it. "Southampton deserved to win," he conceded. "We never did ourselves justice in the first half. We got done by two sucker punches. It's no good sweeping it under the carpet — we made mistakes."

The irony of Southampton's first goal, after 15 minutes, was that it was the product of an error and a smart piece of thinking by two men who appeared together in Brighton's Cup final team of three seasons ago. Pearce, the only member of that Brighton side to line up on Saturday, carelessly played a pass to Case. Lawrence was then released down the right by Wallace and Moran splendidly headed his first goal of the year.

Seven minutes before half-time Brighton's defence again failed to offer a challenge as Southampton swept forward. Townsend made a surging run down centre field and though any one of three Brighton players might have attempted a tackle, Cockerill was given a free run into the area to beat Digweed.

For all their neat manoeuvres in midfield, particularly in the last half hour, Brighton threatened Shilton only when Cooney was in possession. Cattlin's gamble in giving Ferguson a rare opportunity, at the expense of Biley, was a failure, highlighted by Ferguson's wasting the second division club's best chance when he dithered on the ball with only Shilton to beat.

While Cockerill, heaving away and Townsend influential after replacing the injured Wallace, Southampton were comfortable winners, reaching the semi-finals for the second time in three years. For two men in particular the call of Wembley is loud: Holmes is a survivor from Southampton's one and only Cup-winning team of a decade ago and Case will, with the aid of his goal, there with yet another club, having already appeared in Cup finals for Liverpool and Brighton.

Brighton and Hope Albion: P Digweed, G Case, G O'Reilly, D Saunders, S Penney, M Ferguson, T Turner. Southampton: S Bekar, N Holmes, J Case, M Wright, K Bond, G learners, W Reid, P Taylor, G Biley, D Wallace (sub: A Townsend), R Straker, N Middleby (Salford).

Barnstorming over for Bury Salvage operations at Villa

By Nicholas Haring

Bury..... 0 Watford..... 3

Wigan's Springfield Park is not that far from Anfield but for Bury tomorrow night those few miles will represent the difference between reality and fantasy.

Instead of taking the field at Liverpool for an FA Cup quarter-final Bury will step on to Wigan's ground for a third division match, knowing that Saturday's television game will have been dismantled at their own Gigg Lane home, where the tots will not be back for a while.

yard on the fringe of the Lancashire moors, as he is in the spacious concrete bowl of the Maracana. Barnes displayed the grace of a cat and the cunning of an English ringer if only he was more consistent.

That he did not score hardly mattered. He might have done had Graham Taylor, Watford's manager, spared Bury further stress by retaining the winger with 10 minutes left "to get my own back because he had been taking the mickey about the way the West Indies were thrashing England at cricket."

only lapse of Hughes in goal to head in Sterling's fifth-minute cross. Earlier still, Barnes had left the bar quivering with a shot and provided West with a chance that would have given Watford an interval lead had not Hughes bettered his previous save from Terry. All of which must make it sound nonsensical that Watford did not wrap the tie up in last Wednesday's first instalment.

Aston Villa will feel like men trying to salvage gold from their own shipwreck when they visit Oxford United in the second round of their Milk Cup semi-final on Wednesday, for it represents almost catastrophic turn for the season looks ever larger. They lost 4-1 at home to Arsenal.

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Counter-punches expose Luton's lack of resources

By Clive White

Luton Town..... 2 Everton..... 2

No one could begrudge partisan Luton supporters their protestations of more misfortune after their heart-breaking FA Cup semi-final defeat to Everton last season. But the truth is that Luton were not unhappy on Saturday nor did they fritter away their two-goal lead.

They simply lost it to a distinctly superior team on the day and probably on any other. Indeed, one might ask how had Luton been so fortunate to hold such an advantage in the first place.

For David Pleat, Luton's manager, this sixth round tie seemed to contain a disappointment beyond that of Saturday's lost initiative and Wednesday's likely elimination in the replay at Goodison Park. It was the blunt reminder of his club's limitations and the heavy that exists between his team and the champions, even if that margin was exaggerated on Saturday by Luton's exhausted state after playing four matches in seven days.

The real difference between the two sides was not to be found in the personnel of the respective first elevens but in that of the first reserves.

While Luton's little Mark Stieva struggled to keep pace with his elder brother, Brian, Everton's Harper slotted into the vacancy left by the injured Ratcliffe with such composure that his manager referred to him afterwards as Frankenstein. At Luton's Marc North came on gamely for King, who staggered off after breaking his nose for the fourth time in his career, Everton's Heath came on decisively for Poole.

Everton could hardly miss their prey, caged in their own half by ever-mounting pressure. Pleat likened Luton's resistance to a boxer who hangs on without knowing how. Inevitably, Luton were also struggling with reality. Yet Luton stole ahead through a simple tap-in by Harford. And while we waited for an equalizer from the persistently menacing Lineker, Luton broke myself for Stein to score after the imposing Southall had appeared to smother the danger.

Kendall sent on Heath and the very act of substitution seemed to disturb the concentration of Luton who almost simultaneously conceded a headed goal from Sharp. At that point the game was up for Luton.

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Pleat knows that a club like Luton could never afford to keep a player of Heath's ability content with just the occasional first team game as Everton can. But for 77 minutes Pleat and the rest of Luton tried to kid themselves that they could overcome such a disparity, and had it not been for an uncharacteristic fumble by Foster they might have done so.

Yet Luton were strangely at odds with themselves throughout. Where against Arsenal in midweek the moves had flowed with a purpose, now they stuttered. Indeed, one might ask how had Luton been so fortunate to hold such an advantage in the first place.

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Finalists after last kick

By Hugh Taylor

Hibernian recovered all their renowned fighting spirit at Easter Road to beat Celtic, the Scottish Cup holders, by 4-3 and surge into the semi-finals.

Twice Celtic had gone into the lead, though McClair and McChoke, but twice Hibernian, whose recent form has been the despair of their supporters, equalized with fine goals from Cowan and Chisholm.

With six minutes remaining, excited fans with three goals, including two penalties, being scored. The drama began with Cowan, who was to be the man of the match, putting Hibernian ahead for the first time in a century. Celtic replied with a penalty. Celtic replied with a penalty of their own. McClair again the marksman. The climax was reached when, with seconds left, the two Hibernian substitutes combined to bring the winning goal, the result of a cross from Harris and a header by May.

The Celtic blunders paled into insignificance beside the one committed by Geddes, the Dundee goalkeeper. His team, with 17 minutes left of their abject quarter-final tie against Aberdeen, seemed on the point of registering a victory at last over their northern rivals at Dens Park.

They were leading 2-1, with goals from Harvey and Brown, when Geddes bent down to pick up a short back pass. With no danger looming, the goalkeeper took his eye off the ball and dropped it from his hands. He had not seen Simpson lurking behind him. The Aberdeen player pounced on the ball and crossed to allow Hewitt, who had scored earlier, to head into the empty net for the equalizer.

Scotland's football legislators are confident that proposals for a settlement with the League clubs threatening a breakaway will be accepted on Wednesday.

In the replayed quarter-final Old Carthusians beat Lancing Old Boys 1-0, the goal being scored seven minutes after the start by Pennant. The Carthusians now go through to play Old Brentwoods in the semi final.

On Saturday, March 15th, you could be watching England v France at the Parc des Princes stadium.

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Old Cholmeleians..... 5 Old Malvernians..... 3

Playing on the Highgate School ground, Old Cholmeleians beat Old Malvernians after extra time in a robust Arthur Dunn Cup semi-final of changing fortunes on Saturday to reach the final for the first time in 27 years.

With the slope and wind in their favour, Cholmeleians put Malvern under pressure with positive constructive play. Amstad and Kyriakou doing good work. It was against the run of play that Harris headed a high cross into the Highgate goal with quarter of an hour gone.

Ten minutes later Olliver equalized with a shot from 20 yards and after a similar interval and following a goalmouth scramble, Walton put Cholmeleians ahead. Olliver scored again from a half cleared free kick just before half-time.

Hard though Malvernians pressed they could not penetrate a cool, well organized defence marshalled by Sava with only 15 minutes left. Eastland who had come on at half-time scooped a shot home from the narrowest of angles. Then a superb cross from Eastland gave Smith the chance to head past his namesake in the Highgate goal to take the match into extra time.

Shortly after the restart a handball infringement enabled Collins to shoot Cholmeleians ahead from the penalty spot. By throwing everything into the attack, Malvernians were so exposed that Sava was presented with an easy, fifth goal just before the final whistle.

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WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Table with multiple columns showing football results and league tables for various divisions including FA Cup, Second division, Third division, Fourth division, Scottish Cup, and various regional leagues.

See England in Paris for £25 return. [Pass it on].

HOVER SPEED Half the time. Twice the style.

ATHLETICS
Pressure mounts as Games beckon

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

England's return from the experiments of the indoor season, which culminated with the defeat by the United States in the match against the Kodak at Gosford on Saturday, to the trials of selection for the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in late July.

RACING: FAVOURITES LOOK WORTH OPPOSING IN CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP AND CHAMPION HURDLE
Gaye Brief could join exclusive club

By Phil McLennan

The recent history of the Champion Hurdle is littered with multiple winners of the event. In the last 18 years, five horses have captured hurdlings' most coveted prize twice, while Persian War completed a notable treble in 1970.

However, those who believe that Gaye Brief is simply too old should remember that Sea Pigeon was 11 when he won his second Champion and that Comedy Of Errors was eight when he collected his second title for Mrs Rimell's late husband, Fred, in 1975.



Gaye Brief, the former title holder, whose finishing speed could prove decisive in the large field for tomorrow's Champion Hurdle

Another factor in Gaye Brief's favour is the probable large field. When he won the 1983 Champion, the field of 17 was the largest for 14 years since Richard Linley was able to keep him covered up for most of the race and conserve his speed.

He was receiving only 2lb from Forgive 'n Forget when beating him by 7/8 lengths at Haydock in January and the fact that he has not raced since is likely to be in his favour as, like Gaye Brief, he is at his best when fresh and it is worth noting that he has won his first time out in each of his five seasons.

Champion Chase, despite not having run since completing the treble 12 months ago. He has never been beaten and the acclaim he deserves and I am hopeful that Monica Dickinson can produce him fit enough to thwart the Bobsline-Back House challenge. Kathies Lad, a Cheltenham and Liverpool winner 12 months ago, appeals as an each-way alternative.

With Martin Pipe's horses bubbling, anything he runs at the Festival is worthy of the closest attention and Koark is my idea of the meeting's best bet in the Triumph Hurdle. The fact that Pipe has won the Champion Hurdle, second favourite, Corporal Clinger, in his yard and yet believes Roark is the best has

Irish expecting increased tally

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

To an outsider the Irish preoccupation with the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham might seem strange indeed. All through the winter months we get the impression that Irish owners and trainers have only one thought in mind - to have a runner and, even better, a winner at the big meeting. This attitude is very much a post-war innovation and the old stagers will tell you that in the pre-war days the Aintree Grand National was the main event in the hearts of Irish jumping enthusiasts.

The credit for this transformation can be divided up between three men, Charlie Rogers, Tom Dreaper and Vincent O'Brien who have spent the most rapid years in the closing years of the 1940s.

The Irish saga has by no means been confined to a handful of big names, though, and over the past 40 years dozens of the most rapid runners have been afforded to winners hailing from small stables, such as the Champion Hurdle victory of the one-eyed Winning Fair from the two-horse stable of George Spencer.

It is also hard to get away from an Irish victory in tomorrow's opening contest, the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle. The key here appears to have been the Pirelli Export Novice Hurdle at Thurles last month, in which Deep Mold beat off the long-legged Irish Stables' Spruce, the short-priced favourite, Knocked Castle, in a fashion that had Cheltenham success written all over it.

Individual performances will always have more meaning than team results in the event of the defeat of a weak England team by a mediocre American team, judged by the elevated standard to which both countries aspire, is as nothing compared with the emergence of Linford Christie as another potential world-class sprinter, the consolidation by Geoff Parsons of a higher plateau of performance and the ultimate justification of Coe's serious move towards longer distances.

The latter is something that Lewis should realise too. He was bitterly disappointed by his defeat, but he should not be deterred. For if he can turn out that sort of speed in the last kilometre of the world cross-country championships in two weeks' time, even the likes of Alberto Cova will be pressed to stay with him.

Coe was still adamant after the race that his attempts to win medals at 5,000 metres, and Stuttgart is the more likely place for it, since Cram and the Kenyans are the potential opposition in Edinburgh, Christie, too, may be putting his eggs in the basket which is more likely to be broken on. His indoor performances, especially the European gold medal, presage a 2,000 metres time well under 21 seconds, which, amazingly, he has yet to break. But he also continued on Saturday that the 1,000 metres is his summer season priority.

Parsons's 2.23 metres would have been good enough for victory, had he not been competing as a guest since he had not yet qualified. David Sharpe won the Man of the Match award.

HOCKEY
Oxford helped by Monks' change of role

Women's hockey by Joyce Whitehead

Oxford's sound victory was a just reward for their determination in recovering from a torrid opening spell. For the first 10 minutes it looked as if Cambridge might overtake them, but Oxford survived the onslaught, thanks mainly to a remarkable performance by their goalkeeper, Karen Monks (Christ Church).

Oxford retained by breaking away to open the scoring through Karen Reynolds (Meriton), their captain, aided by Katharine Smallman-Smith (St Hughs), who was a constant thorn in Cambridge's side. Decisive sterling work in defence by Cambridge's Alison O'Neill and Catherine's Millicent Ann Mills. Oxford stuck to their guns and Penny Tattershaw (St Hughs) made it 2-0.

AYR
Going: good to soft

Table of race results for Ayr, including 2.0 SLAPHOUSE NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: £885; 2m) (18 runners) and 2.30 ARTHUR CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (€2,022; 2m 4f) (8).

Ayr selections

Table of race results for Ayr, including 3.0 SLAPHOUSE NOVICE HURDLE (Div 2: £885; 2m) (13) and 3.30 AYRSHIRE HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: €775; 3m 110yd) (9).

4.0 ROSEMOUNT HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Ayr, including 4.0 ROSEMOUNT HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 4.30 E B F HOLLYBUSH NOVICE CHASE (€1,521; 3m 110 yd) (8).

5.0 GRUNWELL STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (€875; 2m) (24)

Table of race results for Ayr, including 5.0 GRUNWELL STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (€875; 2m) (24) and 5.30 DONCASTER (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

5.30 DONCASTER (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Ayr, including 5.30 DONCASTER (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 6.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

6.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Ayr, including 6.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 6.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

6.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Ayr, including 6.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 7.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

Easterbys should be followed

By Mandarita (Michael Phillips)

Peter Easterby, the successful Yorkshire trainer, has already shown that he has been able to keep his team in trim during the winter months by sending out a couple of winners from his base near Malton since racing resumed.

Today, Record Harvest, his only runner, at Ayr, should be a third after the first division of the Slaphouse Novice Hurdle. While both Caro's Gift and II Castagno have something to recommend them, I still much prefer Record Harvest whose overall form looks the most solid.

After finishing second at Wetherby in November to Dan The Millar, a useful horse trained by Monica Dickinson, who still rates an engagement in tomorrow's Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham, Record Harvest then returned to the same Yorkshire course the following month to beat Shean Lad by six lengths.

In the meantime Shean Lad has never the form added credibility by winning the valuable Rossington Main Hurdle at Doncaster, where II Castagno who had been the medium of a successful gamble at Catterick only six days earlier, was among the six who finished well after.

Having finished a creditable second to the subsequent Sandown winner, Soymor Shine, over today's course and distance in January Imprecision should be hard to beat in the second division.

If what Jenny Pitman says about the Queen Mother has any truth in it, the Queen's Cup should open the door to a bumper winner at Warwick at the beginning of February is correct. Ethels Course should open her account in the Grunwell Stakes N Flat Race, a half sister to the useful jumpers, Plundering, Conquering and Golden Mine. Ethels Course should strike a future winner on her debut when she finishes third behind The Train, who is regarded as something a bit special by his trainer.

With three winners to his credit since the resumption, the Queen Mother, the remarkable Easterby family, Mick, has also signalled that his horses can be followed with confidence. So I go for Skewsey to win the Grunwell Hurdle, at Cheltenham. In fact, Easterby is clearly determined not to let the grass grow under this one feet because he has already run Skewsey twice since racing ended initially at Catterick where he was pulled up, only to win again at Market Rasen only two days later, when he was runner-up to The Last Prince.

SOUTHWELL
Going: good to firm (chase course); firm (hurdles)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 2.15 EGDMANTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: £885; 2m) (14 runners) and 2.45 KERSALL SELLING HURDLE (€950; 2m) (11).

Southwell selections

Table of race results for Southwell, including 3.15 EFF BOSS FAWCETT HUNTER CHASE (€1,316; 3m 110yd) (9) and 3.45 HOLSTEN PILS HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,896; 2m 4f) (18).

3.15 EFF BOSS FAWCETT HUNTER CHASE (€1,316; 3m 110yd) (9)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 3.15 EFF BOSS FAWCETT HUNTER CHASE (€1,316; 3m 110yd) (9) and 4.05 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

4.05 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 4.05 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 4.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

4.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 4.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 5.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

5.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 5.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 5.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

5.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 5.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 6.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

4.15 LANGFORD NOVICE CHASE (€1,300; 2m 7yd) (16)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 4.15 LANGFORD NOVICE CHASE (€1,300; 2m 7yd) (16) and 4.45 OSSINGTON HANDICAP CHASE (€1,864; 3m 110yd) (13).

4.45 OSSINGTON HANDICAP CHASE (€1,864; 3m 110yd) (13)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 4.45 OSSINGTON HANDICAP CHASE (€1,864; 3m 110yd) (13) and 5.15 EGDMANTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: £885; 2m) (16).

5.15 EGDMANTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: £885; 2m) (16)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 5.15 EGDMANTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: £885; 2m) (16) and 6.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

6.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 6.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 6.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

6.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 6.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 7.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

7.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 7.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 7.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

7.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12)

Table of race results for Southwell, including 7.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 8.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

Course specialists

Table of race results for Southwell, including 8.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 8.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

Saturday's results

Table of race results for Southwell, including 8.30 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12) and 9.0 SANDOWN PARK (€1,242; 2m 4f) (12).

Queen Mother has treble

By Brian Beel

A treble for the Queen Mother delighted the big crowd at Sandown Park on Saturday when racing resumed in the south for the first time since February 5. The Queen Mother, National Hunt Society's most respected and popular owner, came down to the saddling enclosure each time to welcome her winners and to talk to her trainers, Fulke Walwyn and Ian Balding.

Her first winner was Monavee at Footwell in October 1949, and she recalled having a treble once before - at Lingfield about 25 years ago with The Rip, Lady, and Double Star. The Queen Mother, who will be 86 in August, was visibly delighted with her three winners, and said: "It's a great thrill. Horses never fail to surprise one, do they."

The royal treble was started by Special Car, winner of the Horse and Hound Grand Military Gold Cup for the third year running. Then Insular (14-1), on loan from the Queen's Farm, racing string, landed the most valuable prize of the afternoon, the £15,000 added William Hill Imperial Cup. Finally, The Argonaut (7-2) became the Queen Mother's 364th winner in all when landing the Dick McCree Cup and Present Amateur Riders Chase.

Urser earns place in Foxhunters'

By Brian Beel

Runners were plentiful at all 12 point-to-points on Saturday. The unlucky 13th was the South Downs and Ardree where a thick mist kept the sun at bay and prevented the frost coming out of the ground in time.

Urser, impressive when winning at the Derwent, with Nicky Smith on board, now took his chance in the Christmas Foxhunters' at Cheltenham on Thursday. At this meeting, Anthea Beaumont damaged her collar-bone in restraining the hard pulling Ray Gill, so she is unlikely to be able to ride the well-fancied J J Henry at Ayr today.

In winning the ladies at the West Ferry, Flying Ace showed it was none the worse for Wednesday's fall. His arch rival, Foolish Hero, was able to take advantage of the two Northern meetings by avoiding him and going to the Cumberland Farmers to give Gillian Minto her second win on him in four days. In the two divided meetings at the Deacons Harriers, John Fanshawe, an assistant to Michael Stout, put up a very polished performance when winning on Smoker and on Linda's Club to give their trainer, Gill Duffield, her third winner from four starts.

POINT-TO-POINT

Table of race results for Point-to-Point, including 1.15 AVON VALE, 2.15 WEST FERRY, 3.15 WEST FERRY, 4.15 WEST FERRY, 5.15 WEST FERRY, 6.15 WEST FERRY, 7.15 WEST FERRY, 8.15 WEST FERRY, 9.15 WEST FERRY, 10.15 WEST FERRY, 11.15 WEST FERRY, 12.15 WEST FERRY.

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Job advertisements for secretaries and administrative roles. Includes sections for Part-time fluent French, Receptionist, Advertisements, College Leavers, and various secretarial positions with salary ranges and requirements.

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